

THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

REGISTERED No. 23.

PUBLISHED EVERY MONDAY.

VOLUME XXII.
NUMBER 19.

CALCUTTA:—MONDAY, MAY 10, 1875.

Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8.
MOFUSIL.....13-4.

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 3RD MAY.

A DEPUTATION from the Evangelical Alliance and other religious bodies in England headed by Lord Lawrence waited upon Lord Derby, the Foreign Minister, complaining that the Sultan of Turkey did not grant their representatives an audience. They sought to petition His Majesty against the persecution of Christians in Turkey. Lord Derby in reply said: "He apprehended that we had no right to insist on the Sultan receiving a deputation. He believed that, as a matter of fact, the Sultan never received deputations of his own subjects. He lived a very secluded life, seldom transacting business with any but his own Ministers, and even they did not always succeed in obtaining audiences. The refusal of an audience by such a Sovereign must not be regarded in the same light as a refusal by any other European Government. The deputation could not doubt his sympathy with their objects. Freedom of thought, of speech, and of action, as far as that was compatible with the requirements of civilized society, were the very bases of English society, and we were naturally anxious that those principles should be extended as far as our influence could extend them. At the same time, it must be recognized that in a vast empire, not having an effective system of police, not having a strong central authority in which religious (by which he meant Mahomedan) and national sentiments were blended, as it were, in one and in which very strong, even fanatical feelings prevailed among the mass of the population, there were very great difficulties to be encountered, and which it was not fair to the Porte and its advisers that we should not bear in mind." His Lordship observed that the so-called persecuted Christians had been punished not because of their faith but because of their refusal to take military service under the law of the land. His Lordship added: "The admission by the Turks of exemption on the ground of conversion to Christianity would be in short the holding out of a hope to any one that he might escape military service by abandoning his religion." The question has been fairly put by the Foreign Minister. How often has England been dragged to quarrel with foreign nations by irresponsible missionary zealots!

HOW TEMPERANCE is spreading in America! In the city of New York, the Board of Police Justices report, among a population of about a million there were in 1874 no less than 40,777 arrests for being drunk, or drunk and disorderly; 27,203 of males, and as many as 13,574 females.

HOW LITERATURE is honored in Denmark. The Copenhagen correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* writes:

"To-day (April 2) the well-known poet, Hans Christian Andersen, accomplished his 70th year, and this occasion was embraced by all his admirers and friends, not only in Denmark, but all over the world, to show the old poet how dear he is to them. Yesterday he was fettered by one of the Royal carriages to a private audience of His Majesty the King who with his own hand gave him the Grand Cross of the Dannebrog, while the Queen and the Princess Thyra presented him with some magnificent bouquets. To-day, shortly after 12 o'clock, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and the other Princesses of the Royal family called on the poet, while deputations from all parts of the country succeeded one another, among these the Committee which has collected funds to raise him a statue in one of the public gardens. And another from his native town, Odense, the chief town on the island of Funen."

During the course of the day telegrams from all parts of the world kept pouring in, several from distant parts of the world; even her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales had remembered the friend of her childhood.

THE PRUSSIAN CORRESPONDENT of the *Times* telegraphs the following: "The Russian *Invalid* says it is proposed to send Yakoob Khan of Herat to India, and that Herat has been definitively occupied by Shah Ali."

MR. FORSYTH moved the second reading of his Bill for the removal of the disabilities of women for admission into Parliament. The House divided, when the numbers were:—

For the second reading	152
Against	187
Majority Against	35

The Bill was therefore thrown out.

It is significant that so many as 152 gentlemen were found in the House to vote for the Bill.

THE *Times* reports an entertaining lecture delivered by Mrs. William Grey at the Chelsea Literary and Scientific Institution on Old Maids. Commencing by definitions, the lecturer remarked, that an honourable member in a speech in Parliament called old maids "social failures." A rev. gentleman, who took a chair at a meeting for promoting the higher education of women, in speaking of the half-million of women who are in excess of that number of men in this country, and can therefore not be paired, said women were by that half-million superfluous. The lecturer's deposition was this: "We might content ourselves with laying down the rule that so soon as youthful manners and youthful amusements become ridiculous the woman who affects them is an old maid." The lecturer thus described the services rendered to humanity by "Old Maids":

"But were unmarried women superfluous? In our own country alone, they gave us in literature, Miss Austen, Miss Edgeworth, Joanna Baillie, Harriet Martineau, Frances Power Cobbe. Was Elizabeth Barrett superfluous till she became Mrs. Browning? In science, was Miss Herschell superfluous, whose labours were invaluable to her father and brother? Was the devoted sister of the poet Wordsworth superfluous? In philanthropy, could they count as too many Florence Nightingale, Lady Burdett Coutts, Mary Carpenter, Octavia Hill, and the great sisterhood of nurses of every denomination, under every garb? Could we spare Miss Davies and Miss Bessie in education?"

She seems to consider marriage a hindrance in life:

"No doubt, marriage was the highest form of life both for men and women, but there are old maids from choice, who, with a genius for friendship, have never experienced love, and of these she repeated the words of the Apostle. Though, a sacrament, marriage came to be looked on in its lower aspect as a concession to human frailty, instead of as the highest form of companionship. The type of womanhood was taken, not from the women who followed their Master to the foot of the Cross, but from Eve, tempted by the serpent, and in her turn tempting the man to sin. In the days of the Middle Ages, the ideal of womanhood was that of a beautiful woman, Protestantism had rehabilitated marriage, but not women in the same degree, and she was now looked upon as inferior and ministering to man, and not as an equal being, with equal rights of free development. The conquest of a higher position in public estimation must be made by our single women, who, not being bound like married women, to care for the things which please their husbands, may claim the right to devote themselves to the things of the Lord, the cultivation of whatever faculty. He has given them 'towards perfection.' They need not be special superlatives; and many of them are, indeed, necessities.—though often, like other necessities of life, thanklessly used till their loss teaches us their value: true followers as they are of Him who came, not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

Three cheers for "Old Maids!"

TUESDAY, 4TH MAY.

It is stated that fifteen out of the 19 States represented at the Berne Postal Conference have ratified the Treaty—namely, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, the United States, Sweden and Norway, Russia, Holland, Roumania, Servia, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Portugal, and Egypt. The representative of France, it will be remembered, did not sign the Convention, and the adhesion of this country is still uncertain.

HERR WENDT, the responsible editor of the *Mercury*, printed at Munster, has been condemned to a year's imprisonment for publishing the Pope's Encyclical. He was taken into custody as soon as the Court delivered its judgment. The Public Prosecutor had asked that the sentence should be imprisonment for two years. Such is the freedom of thought and speech in Prussia.

THE LONDON WORLD has the following remarks on the spread of drunkenness among ladies in England:

"Formerly, whatever their faults, ladies shrank as a rule from indulgence in drink. No longer is such the case. They pretend to abhor stimulants as much as ever, yet on the sly, and under various disguises, many of them consume a large quantity of stimulants. Ladies may even occasionally be seen the worse for champagne at a ball, though it must be admitted that the sex unanimously condemn such an exposure of weakness. That many of them in secret drink habitually, if not enough to completely intoxicate, yet sufficient to demoralise, to fluster and to injure health, is however a notorious fact. Nor are they without an excuse. It is the fashion of the day to nourish patients, to deary the lowering system, and many a lady, simply by dieting herself according to her medical attendant's directions, glide insensibly into tipping. Young mothers are especially liable to this snare. Women seem now to require more support than formerly after accouchements, and that support is freely administered by the doctors. Again, nursing mothers naturally experience a great drain on their strength; and not having in the higher classes very robust appetites, they satisfy the craving for nourishment by flying to the champagne or stout, instead of the mutton-chop or beef-steak, the physician having given them the option. Then neuralgia and diseases of the nerves are a natural consequence of our high pressure style of living, and stimulants, whether in the shape of ether, salvolatile, wine, or spirits, certainly do afford a temporary relief, and the remedy is freely

recommended. In the beginning, ladies honestly believe that they are taking these stimulants simply as temporary mediocres, and in many cases the prescription is really distasteful to them. They soon overcome their reluctance, fall in love with their physic, take it without express orders from the Doctor and at length cannot do without it. When women once take to drink, they are, so it is said, owing to their excitable nature, worse than men; and that there are many ladies of birth, refinement, and education who would have recourse to any artifice, any meanness, to obtain drink is, we fear, a melancholy fact."

Where are the missionaries, who are so busy in ministering to the depraved soul of the heathen?

THE SOCIETY for the Improvement of the Condition of Women have sent an address to Victor Hugo, appealing to him in the name of right to lend them the aid of his eloquent voice. It has extracted from the poet the following characteristic letter:

"Mesdames,—I have received your address, which does me honour. I am aware of your noble and legitimate demands. In our society, such as it has been, made woman suffers. She is right to claim a better fate, I myself am only a conscience, but I understand your rights, and to obtain them is one of the duties of my life. You are, therefore, not wrong to rely on my good will and assistance. Man was the problem of the 18th century; woman is the problem of the 19th. And who says woman says child—that is, the future. The question thus put appears in all its profundity, and on its solution depends the fate of the supreme social battle. What a strange and anomalous situation! In reality, man depends on you, for woman holds the heart of man. Before the law she is a minor, incapable, without civil action, without political right—in short, she is nothing; before the family alter she is everything, because she is the mother. The domestic hearth is what she makes it; at home she is the mistress of good and ill. Sovereignty complicated by oppression; woman can do all against man, but nothing for herself. It is imprudent of the law to make her so weak when she is so strong. Let us recognise that weakness and protect it; let us recognise that strength and counsel it. There lies the duty of man, and there is also his interest. No, I shall never cease to say it: the problem is laid down, and it must be solved. She who bears half the burden ought to have half the right. Half of the human race is deprived of equality; it must be given to them. This will be one of the grand glories of our grand century. Let the right of woman counter-balance the right of man—that is to say, let the laws be placed in conformity with the morals and manners of the country. Accept, mesdames, my respects."

THE VANITY FAIR, which is believed to be the organ of the Prince of Wales, says that the proposed visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to India is to be reconsidered before a final decision is come to. In the event of the visit being carried out, Lord Salisbury and Sir Bartle Frere will accompany, also Lord Blandford, Major-General Probyn, and Dr. William Russell, the famous *Times* correspondent.

WITH THE sanction of the Chief Commissioner of British Burma, a prize of One thousand Rupees has been offered to the composer of the best essay in English, on the sources and history of Buddhist Law, as it prevails in the province of British Burma.

WEDNESDAY, 5TH MAY.

THE ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG gives a deplorable account of the condition of Persia. The revenue, it says, is seven or eight millions tomans, or three million pounds; while the expenditure, including the lavish outlay of the Shah and his numerous harem, is five millions tomans. A certain sum in gold is yearly deposited in a gigantic vault, where since the times of the early Kings chests of gold have been placed and lie unproductive, thus gradually exhausting the wealth of the country. The Shah cannot be induced to spend any portion of it on railways, canals, or mines. The Provincial Governors are mostly the Shah's relatives, and are devoid of any administrative capacity. Their tenure of office mainly depending on the sum they forward to the central Treasury, they are sometimes superseded by men who offer to furnish a large amount.

THE SAME PAPER says that Baron Reuter commenced his undertaking in Persia in earnest, surveying the railway and beginning the works between Teheran and Rascht. But the Russians are opposed to the scheme, and their intrigues induced the Shah to stop the operations on the plea that some clauses in the contract had not been carried out. Baron Reuter has sustained great losses, and is endeavouring to bring some influence to bear to remove the interdiction. He cannot, however, institute a lawsuit against the Shah, and his materials and implements are suffering depreciation, while the English Government, whose protection he vainly solicited at the outset, refuse to interfere.

THE ASSAM GAZETTE contains official correspondence on the subject of the improvement of steam

service to Assam. The Government of India has addressed the Chief Commissioner the following letter on the subject. The Agricultural Secretary to the Government of India writes :

"I am desired to state that the Governor-General in Council, after fully considering all the facts connected with the subject, and the reports of the Committee appointed to report on it, has come to the conclusion that the Government of India can do nothing at present to further the project."

2. His Excellency in Council fully appreciates the importance of the question as tending to develop the resources of Assam, but he finds it impossible on financial grounds to grant the money which it appears would be necessary to carry out the recommendations which have been made. The province of Assam has for the time had allotted to it a full share of the Imperial revenue and I am to observe that you should endeavour by economy and increased efficiency to turn that allotment to the best account in every direction. It is believed that, by economising your resources, you may be enabled to devote some part of the enlarged income of the province to gradually improving the facilities for river traffic. In the course of time, as the resources of Assam develop, you will have liberty to make such new proposals as its circumstances may demand, and the means at the disposal of the Government of India may admit."

At the last Prussian census, there were found to be living at Berlin 12,251 persons who were born before the end of last century. Among them, 3 men and 6 women were 91 years old; 4 men and 9 women, 92 years; 1 man and 5 women, 93 years; 10 persons were 94 years of age; 4 women were 96 years old; 2 men and 2 women, 97; 1 man 98; one woman, 99; and another woman, 101.

It is stated that Sir T. Madhava Rao will get a salary of Rs. 5,000 per month as Prime Minister at Baroda.

It is said that the stay of the Prince of Wales in India is likely to extend from November to April next; and that it is the intention of His Royal Highness to see as much of the country and its rulers as he can with convenience.

A WRITER in a London periodical called the *Woman's Journal*, we quote the *Delhi Gazette*, says :

"There is growing up in England a class of women who do not marry, who apparently wish not to marry. They deliberately devote themselves to literature, to teaching, to some trade, generally an artistic one, at any rate to some occupation that gives a livelihood and tends to culture, and this they choose for life. The marrying instinct seems dead, or never to have been born, in them. They do not seem to be thought of as out of place, but, on the contrary, they move into fit places in the great social organism easily and naturally, and are accepted without remark."

Old Chaucer wrote :

Marriage is such a rabble rout;
That those that are out would fain get in,
And those that are in would fain get out.

It is stated that the Chinese Government have made a proposal to the British Government to admit a number of Chinese cadets into the British Navy.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE for India is credited with the intention of creating a new office which will have the supreme direction of all educational measures in the three presidencies.

IT IS SAID that the Government of India will give His Highness Mulhar Rao, the ex-Gaekwar of Baroda, a stipend of nine lacs per annum.

THURSDAY, 6TH MAY.

THE BOMBAY GAZETTE says that the Mysore administration has been authorized by the Supreme Government to dismantle all the less important forts in the provinces as also walled enclosures erected for the purposes of defence. Among those to be preserved are Seringapatam, Mysore, and Nunddroog. The work of dismantling will be carried out gradually by district officers, the material being handed over to the Department of Public Works. The British Government is administering the territory of Mysore in trust.

THE SUCCESS of the Famine Relief measures adopted by Government, a contemporary justly observes, is attested by the small number of orphans left by the famine. These orphans as we had apprehended have been made over to Christian missionaries. We are glad that they have been for the most part assigned to the Catholic Missionaries, for of all the Christian Missionaries working in India the Catholics are the most devoted and kind-hearted. But we object to this business on principle. As the Government has agreed to pay to the missionaries Rs. 2 per head for the maintenance of the orphans, could not the local Relief Committees have been induced to form themselves into permanent Committees for the maintenance and education of these unfortunate children?

THE PRESS publishes contradictory news about Burma. Last week it said that there was little prospect of a war, as the whole question was the trimmery boundary dispute. In its last issue it says that the prospect of a little war with Burma still continues to disturb the commercial mind. "Capital is timid," says the Stock Exchange. If the present suspense continues much longer, many Rangoon firms with agencies in Mandalay may come to grief. The Lower Burmah rice harvest must also suffer, if, as is reported, the King is raising troops from that class of the Upper Burmese population which sup-

plies the farmers in British Burma with their reapers. He is also said to have mounted eight guns on board one of his river steamers, and to have despatched troops to Minhla with orders to erect a fort there. It is also reported he is busily engaged collecting horses and ponies, the exportation of which has been, for some time, strictly forbidden. We hope it will prove the old story of great cry and little wool.

SIR JOHN STRACHET lays down the following instructions for the preparation of Gazetteers N. W. P. "A description and history of each fiscal subdivision should be given, sufficient to place officers new to the district charge in possession of such general knowledge of the physical capabilities of the tract, its fiscal history, and its inhabitants, as may enable them at once to exercise an intelligent control over its administration."

It is said that the manager of the Beliah Factory, which is owned by Mr. Soldo, wanted to establish a new market in his own compound to the prejudice of one existing there for some time—an attempt, which was resisted by the owners of the old market. The result was that there was a serious riot attended with loot. The Factory people have been committed to the Sessions.

It is currently reported that Mulhar Rao, the ex-Gaekwar of Baroda, will be shortly forwarded to either Tanjore or Vellore, he having chosen one of these stations to pass his days there as a State prisoner.

THE UNDER-MENTIONED specifications of invention have been filed in the Home Office: William Brunton, Civil Engineer, residing in the town of Cochinalabur Coast, India, for a new method of removing bales of cotton or other fibrous or elastic substances from Presses used in binding such bales, also of the required machinery for removing and binding bales, also of transferring bales from one Press to another; Mr. Ambrose Shere Messey, Engineer and Manager of Works, residing at Calicut, in the Collectorate of Malabar, East Indies, for deodorizing and preserving animal, fish, or municipal refuse to be used as manure; Mr. Israel Putnam Magoon, of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, United States of America, for heating the feed water in locomotive steam engines and for preventing cinders from entering the exhaust pipes and feed water heating chamber; Mr. William Bayford, of Randeer, near Surat, Mechanical Engineer, for improvements in hydraulic pumps; Mr. William Foulis, of Glasgow in the County of Lanark, North Britain, Civil Engineer, for new and improved machinery or apparatus for charging retorts; Mr. Henry Kinnaird Yor, of Allahabad, for a machine for pressing loose cotton; Mr. John Winter, Jailor, European Penitentiary, Hazareebaugh, for manufacturing fibre from the leaf of the aloe plant; Mr. Joseph Osmond Barber, Tea planter and Engineer, residing at Gowhatty, for method in the frying or drying of tea by steam without the use of charcoal; and Mr. Harry Langston Jones, of London, in the Kingdom of Great Britain, for improvements in apparatus for disinfecting water closet urinals and for similar purposes.

FRIDAY, 7TH MAY.

THE MAGISTRATE of Hooghly reports that the dam across the Damoodur was completed and the water entered the Kana Nuddee on the 9th ultimo, and after a course of 30 miles reached Gopalnagar on the morning of the 17th, entered the new canal there on the 18th, and through it the Saraswati river bed on the 19th, from whence it began to flow both north and south from Purusotampore along the dry bed. He adds that in communication with Mr. Whitfield he has now brought the water in a fine stream to opposite Hooghly by raising the weir leading to the Kunttee river and also checking the flow southwards. The water reached a place within six miles of Tribany, where it is flowing along in a strong clear stream. The southern part of the Saraswati was more readily filled. The water for drinking purposes alone is a great boon to the people along the course of the Kana Nuddee and Saraswati. It is beautifully clear and fresh, a great contrast to the old filthy water-holes. The work has proved a great blessing to the people of Hooghly.

WE LEARN from the *Behar Herald* that the members of the Durbhanga Raj family have for sometime past been urging on the Court of Wards the necessity of starting a Sanskrit School in the town of Durbhanga. The scheme contemplates not only teaching but also provides for the board and lodging of the pupils. It is proposed to begin on a small scale with a staff of seven teachers and accommodation for 50 pupils.

WE TAKE the following from the above journal :

"Indigo Again! We hear that some Planters of Chumpan, anxious to push up the margin of indigo cultivation,

obtained farms of certain villages from the late Manager of the Bettea Estate, and wanted to have them cultivated with indigo. The Maharajah Coomar Bettea did not quite approve of this, and the ryots having come to know that such was the opinion of the Coomar, opposed the introduction of the blessed dye into their villages. This led to complications, which, it is said, resulted in an extraordinary charge being preferred by the Factory party. It was actually complained that a factory servant, who had been sent to see some fields sown with indigo, had not returned, and that probably foul play was at the bottom of his non-est. This set in motion the whole administrative machinery, and in the inquiry which ensued, the Police, as usual, left no stone unturned, when and behold! the missing limb of the human race has reappeared, just as hale and hearty as when he went out on his mission. The Sub-divisional Officer of Bettea has imprisoned the fellow for six months for practising this hoax on the public. We leave the public to draw their own inferences from these facts."

CAPTAIN FREDERICKS JAMES MYLIUS, Paymaster, 43rd Regiment, was charged and tried by a Court-martial for fraudulently misapplying the sum of Rupees 13,232-4-1, public money, received by him as Paymaster of the 43rd Light Infantry. The sentence of the Court is that the prisoner be dismissed and make good the amount misappropriated. The sentence has been confirmed by the Commander-in-Chief. Comments on the above are superfluous.

THE FRIEND OF INDIA gives the following secret history of the present relations of the British Government with Independent Burma: "It is sufficiently notorious that the King's consent to the treaty of 1867 was only obtained through the British envoy secretly guaranteeing the free importation of munitions of war through our territories into the King's dominions. The Indian Government, while it accepted all the advantages conferred by the treaty, refused its sanction to this private compact, and made the King for ever distrustful of British honour and generosity." This explains the cause of the Burmese Minister acknowledging the independence of the Karen country.

THE PIONEER has received the following telegram from Peshwar, dated the 3rd instant :

"A caravan which set out from Peshawar city five days ago for Cabul via Michnee, has been looted by Nowroz Khan. The goods are valued at three lakhs. An engagement took place between the Amir's troops and Nowroz Khan three days ago, about six miles from Fort Michnee. The Amir lost 16 men. The caravan merchants have returned to Peshawar empty; they report the pass blocked. Nowroz Khan is said to be near Michnee."

THE INDIAN PUBLIC OPINION has received the following frontier intelligence :

"Our Peshawar correspondent learns that Shah Mard Khan, Hakim of Jellalabad, having collected all the surrounding tribes about Ladpura, asked them whether they consented to have Mohammed Shah Khan, son of Saadat Khan, as their ruler. They unanimously agreed to obey him, and all that is now wanted is the sanction of the Amir to the new appointment which is now awaited."

It is rumoured in Peshawar that Nowroz Khan is lying hidden in the Hill called Hyder Khan, which is situated on the other side of the Magi river.

The road to Cabul, is still believed to be impassable as Nowroz Khan is said to have robbed another caravan which was proceeding to Cabul. Shah Mard Khan is engaged in clearing the predatory gangs which invest these roads, and renders every assistance to traders and others.

SATURDAY, 8TH MAY.

A CORRESPONDENT from Ranaghat mentions a case in which a man of the Goala or milk-man's caste died from being surfeited with goor or molasses. At a meeting of this low-caste people held at a village called Soodhia near Blatparah a bet was laid that any one eating two seers of goor will gain the bet of Rs. 2, or he will forfeit the same amount on his failing to do so after accepting the bet. The victim it is said accepted the bet and gained it. But in the course of two hours the molasses began to run out from every aperture of his body and at last affected the bowels which caused his death.

A CORRESPONDENT thus writes to us from Ranee-gunge dated the 5th instant :

"A severe hurricane, resembling a cyclone in miniature and attended with a shower of rain, passed over this station on Sunday last at about 3 P. M. It lasted about 20 minutes, and the sky was overcast with a thick cloud of dust, which made all external objects invisible for a time. Numerous trees, and thatched houses, have been blown down and reports are rife as to the loss of some human lives and cattle. The western and southern parts of the subdivision have, we hear, suffered most. It is a matter of regret that the visitations of heaven, instead of being few and far between, are now becoming the order of the day, so that the poor people who are just rising from the dire effects of the late famine, feel themselves very much pinched and overborne. The late rains have, however, greatly cooled the atmosphere and conducted to the healthiness of the station, which has not yet been visited by the periodical diseases of cholera and small-pox, which are now said to be raging in other parts of Bengal."

THE BOMBAY PAPERS seem to stick at nothing in giving currency to rumours about Baroda. The other day they stated that a kharbari of Coomabai, the daughter of Mulhar Rao, had offered a bribe of 5 lakhs of rupees to Mr. Souter, before the trial had commenced, if he would help the Gaekwar to get out

of the mess. Coomabai now flatly contradicts the statement. It is strange that it did not for a moment strike our Bombay contemporaries that if such an offer had been actually made to the Police Commissioner, he would have at once arrested and committed to trial the man or men, who had been guilty of such an act, and would have undoubtedly brought that fact to the notice of the Commission as a proof presumptive of the Gaekwar's guilt.

THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER of Police had instructed a Police Inspector to prosecute before Mr. Dickens, stipendiary Magistrate for the Northern Division of Calcutta, certain natives for neglecting to register births. The Magistrate remarked that such cases were usually disposed of by the sitting Justices, and he did not see why his file should be burdened. The Inspector explained that Mr Lambert wrote that he would try the cases as the sitting Justices did not heavily fine the defaulters. What a compliment to the sitting Justices! Does the Deputy Commissioner wish that the sitting Justices should register his decrees? The other day a poor beggar woman was prosecuted for not registering the death of her husband within a week of the occurrence. That Magistrate should have been at once made over to Dr. Payne, who should have fined such a poor creature. But we cannot understand why persons should be prosecuted for not registering deaths at the Police stations when they do register deaths at the Burning Ghats and burial places. They are not required by law to register deaths twice.

SIR MADHAVA RAO has been duly installed as Prime Minister of Baroda. We take the following telegram from the *Bombay Gazette*:

Baroda, 3rd May.—Sir T. Madhava Rao arrived this morning at nine o'clock. He was received by Captain Jackson and drove off under the salute of guns. At eight o'clock this morning Mr. Richey, Assistant Resident, accompanied Jumnabai and her daughter, Tarabai, to the palace. A grand procession of elephants, troops, and retainers preceded her. On arrival at the palace Tarabai was placed on the *gadhi*, on behalf of Jumnabai who was concealed in a room behind the *pardah*, she received nuzzers and obeisances from Sirdars and a large number of other people. Little Tarabai behaved cheerfully and precociously. People generally seem delighted, and to-night there will be illuminations in the city in honor of Jumnabai's return to Baroda.

It is stated that Mulhar Rao's Ranees, Lukshimbai and Mulsabai, have left Bombay for Madras under a military escort.

WE TAKE from the *Gazette of India* the following report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops for the week ending on the 29th April:

"The rainfall of the past week seems to indicate an early monsoon. Slight rain has fallen in the northern districts of Madras and in Mysore, and heavier showers in the south and Malabar. In Bombay rain is reported only from the Southern Mahratta Country. In Bengal and Assam there has been general rain, heavy with storms in the Central Districts (5½ inches falling in Bardwan) and Sylhet, and lighter in Chota Nagpore and the Bhagulpore Division; hardly any fell in Behar. A little rain fell in Sambulpore and Bilaspore in the Central Provinces; elsewhere the returns are blank. Few crops remain on the ground. In Bengal the rain has greatly benefited standing crops, and helped forward sowings for the early rice. In the Punjab the *rabi* harvest continues. Agricultural prospects are generally good."

THE PAPERS publish contradictory rumours about the appointment of Sir Richard Temple to the Governorship of Madras. A Telegram from Simla to the *Times of India*, dated the 3rd of May, says that Sir Richard Temple has been appointed Governor of Madras, and the Hon'ble A. Eden, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. According to the *Englisman's* Allahabad telegrams dated the 7th idem "the rumours of Sir Richard Temple and of Hon'ble Henry Bourke being made Governor of Madras are without foundation so far as is known at Simla." It is added that "nothing has transpired at Darjeeling regarding Sir Richard's appointment as Governor of Madras."

It is stated that General Barwell has been offered the Governorship of the Andamans for six months. J. B. R. would have proved an excellent Governor of the Andamans. His knowledge of the native character and energy would have found there a wide scope.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London, May 4th.—Alfonso, the brother of Don Carlos, has quitted Graz.

5th.—In the Commons last night the Marquis of Hartington brought forward a motion to place the relations between the Parliament and the Press upon a satisfactory footing. Mr. Disraeli deprecated for the present any change being made. On the motion of Mr. Sullivan strangers were excluded during the debate. The House has adjourned until the 25th instant. The Pope is again indisposed. He is suffering from extreme physical weakness.

The reply of Belgium to the German note has been communicated to the Chambers. It promises to follow the initiative of Germany regarding the modification of laws regulating the license of the Press.

Paris, May 5th.—The approaching interview between the Emperors of Russia and Germany creates great uneasiness here.

London, May 7th.—In the House of Commons last night Mr. Disraeli announced a motion that the House decide

definitely upon the exclusion of strangers during the debates. Mr. Disraeli also announced (?) the Government from charges of slackness and mismanagement, and announced that the ministry were determined to pass the measures now pending even if it proved necessary to advise Her Majesty to prolong session. In the meantime the present intention is to adjourn on the 25th instant. The Peace Preservation Bill has passed through the Committee.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications and periodicals:—1. Report on the Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Penal settlements of Port Blair and the Nicobars for the year 1873-74. 2. Report on the effects of artificial respiration, intravenous injection of ammonia and administration of various drugs &c. in Indian and Australian snake-poisoning by the Commission appointed to investigate the subject. 3. The Post Office of India or an Historical Review of its rise, progress &c. by Ananda Gopal Sen, B.A. Post Master of Bankipore. 4. Bigyan Rahasya or essays on scientific subjects, by Bunkim Chunder Chatterjee. 5. Calendar of Mail Steamer departures from Bombay and collection of Time Tables &c. relating to the principal steamer mail services between India and other places and between the several Indian Ports, April 1875. 6. Sukshma Dayan; a Hindu Tract by Hurry Chand Chintamon. 7. Bungadursana No. 12 for Choitra. 8. The *Calcutta Magazine* for February, March and April 1875. 9. Monthly Stock and Price List of type, presses, ink, printing-paper &c. by Scott & Co.

TWO REMARKABLE cases of longevity among Hindu widows have come to our notice. Babu Peary Chand Mitter's mother died last week at the age of 95 years. Another Hindu widow in our neighbourhood died lately after completing a century. Such longevity is rare among males. Babu Tara Chandra Banerjee of this city is dead. He attained the age of 75 years, and ordinarily we do not see Hindus among the upper classes of native society in this town, who complete three score years and ten. Babu Tara Chand was a man of active habits, as the subscribers to the Bonded Warehouse and the steam General Navigation Companies could testify, and he retained his usual activity within six months of his death.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MAY 10, 1875.

OUR FUTURE KING.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy announced at the Delhi Durbar that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, our future King, will honor the Indian Empire with a visit in November next. According to a telegram received last week His Royal Highness in a speech at the Mansion House is reported to have said that he "looked forward with the greatest interest and pleasure to his intended visit to India, which had been the dream of his life." It may then be fairly assumed that the contemplated visit of our future King is not a mere rumour. The Princes and people of India are sure to give His Royal Highness a right loyal welcome. For the first time a Prince of the blood visited India in 1869 in the person of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, and the favorable impressions which he carried with him have evidently awakened an enlightened curiosity in his eldest brother. India constitutes the brightest jewel in the English diadem, and what could be more desirable and fitting than that our future sovereign should see with his own eyes the grandeur of this vast dependency. The people of India, indeed, of all oriental countries, are deeply attached to the person of their sovereign, and there are cases on record in which even the greatest tyrant has disarmed his infuriated subjects by personally appealing to their feelings. The sentiment of loyalty is deep-rooted in the breast of the oriental; it is almost second nature with him; he would rather die than suffer the house of his sovereign to be attacked or dishonored. From its constitution the British Government hitherto failed to touch this tender chord in the heart of its Indian subjects. The "Koompani Bahadur," which governed the country, was an invisible, impersonal, and indefinite power, the form and character of which it transcended the imagination of the people to realize. They could hardly conceive that the sovereign power rested with a corporation of merchants; that these merchants had

a Court of Directors, which exercised regal powers; that these Directors appointed the Governor General, Governors and Lieutenant Governors, and other high functionaries of State, who visibly represented the Majesty that swayed the destinies of the nation; that above the Court was another power, which represented the Crown of England, and took from them regularly an account of the standardship of the Indian Empire, and over and above all was the Imperial Parliament, which was a sort of Court of Appeal from the decisions of the Court of Directors and the Board of Control. The people could not understand this fourfold system—1st the Governor General in India guiding the vessel of the State on the spot,—2ndly the Court of Directors watching and controlling from afar,—3rdly the Board of Control sitting in judgment upon the Court, and—4thly the Imperial Parliament, occupying the position of the King of Kings. The Sepoy Mutiny led to a Revolution. The "Koompani" passed into the domain of history, and Her Gracious Majesty the Queen assumed directly the government of the country as the Empress of Hindustan. This grand Revolution was celebrated by a brilliant illumination and other festivities throughout the Empire. But the effect was only temporary. There was no visible sign of the change. The same luminaries that had shone on the political horizon of India continued to appear and disappear with the same regularity as before. The Governor General, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and other high officials were in their places as before. The routine of administration was the same as before. The only difference observable was not favorable to the change in the form of Government. There was increase of taxation, increase of laws, increase in administrative activity, proceeding at a too rapid pace for the healthful development of the people, and pressing hard upon the traditional rights and liberties of the subject. The name of the Queen was a mere sound—an echo. The people do not see the august form of the sovereign, who is supposed to be the arbiter of the destinies of one-sixth of the human race; they do not hear her angelic voice, or receive the bounties of her regal munificence. To the masses of India the transfer of the Government has had no perceptible meaning. Is it possible to convey to them a vivid idea of the regal power of England? We fear not. The sovereign of England and India is a constitutional monarch; her functions are performed by her delegates represented in the three Estates of the Empire; she has a few prerogatives of the Crown, which she at her discretion exercises, but as regards the general administration of her dominions, over which the sun never sets, she takes no direct share. When the sovereign cannot thus directly or indirectly interfere with the course of affairs, much less can her children exercise any influence in that direction. In so far the English theory of sovereign power does not run in unison with Indian notions of it. The Indian cannot conceive a sovereign whose will is not law, who cannot make or unmake persons under his sway, whose voice does not ring through the empire, and whose treasury is not at his own command. The course of political education, through which the people of India are passing, has certainly enabled the educated among them to understand the position of a constitutional monarch, but the masses are still as ill-able to realize it as ever.

Such being the case the Royal Family of England cannot strike the oriental imagination with that awe, which is usually produced upon it by the presence of a sovereign, who is the visible emblem of the ruling power. Nevertheless the name of a Prince of the blood, and one, who is the heir apparent to the throne, conjures up notions in the mind of the Indian, which no Englishman can realize. But the Prince, if he comes to India, must come in right regal state. This subject we observe has already attracted the attention of the English public. An Old Indian, a Mr. J. T. Mackenzie of Kintail, who says that "when in India he was a large European landholder, and until lately held considerable landed estates there," and who was a member of "the East India Company's court of Proprietors," has addressed a long letter to the *Times*, in which he urges that if the Government is not prepared to enable his Royal Highness to

carry it out with fitting splendour, the project had much better be abandoned, without further discussion. He adds, "I am confirmed in this opinion by his Highness the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, who has a lively recollection of his own Court in India when he was a youth, and who has kept himself well informed concerning the feelings of his fellow countrymen during his residence among us." He remarks: "In the mind of the natives, England is the centre of all power and splendour; the Throne of Queen Victoria the grandest upon earth, and her eldest son only second to herself in the respect and homage to which she is entitled. They will be quite ready to manifest their loyalty and devotion according to Eastern customs; and if our arrangements fall short of their expectations a very bad impression will be produced, and it will seem to them as if we neither honoured our own sovereign nor intended to treat them with civility." His programme is as follows. He suggests that His Royal Highness should be accompanied by a Court, selected from the oldest and most historic families of the nobility; and it would be well that the Army and Navy, the Law, and the Church should each be represented by some of the highest officials, likely to look and act with becoming dignity. "A progress through the districts that must be traversed," he observes, "would require an extensive provision of tents, horses, elephants, camels, &c., and the accompaniment of a Guard of Honor of from 10,000 to 6,000 men at the very lowest, insignificant in numbers to what the great native Sovereigns were accustomed to take with them on similar occasions. The Prince's tents should be of the regal red silk, and those of his Court of a costly description." He gives the following estimate of the expenses: "presents, say to 30 native Princes, of an average value of a lac of rupees, or £10,000 each, equal to £300,000. These should consist of objects of art and luxury, including ornamental arms, porcelain, mirrors, chandeliers, clocks, and textile fabrics. Instead of money it would be better to give medals struck for the purpose, in the purest gold that could be employed, bearing the Queen's portrait on one side and on the reverse the Prince's plume, and giving the date of his visit. The purity of the gold would be regarded as enhancing the value of these medals far more than might be supposed in this country, and they would be worn as ornaments and handed down as heirlooms. About £100,000 in value of these medals or coins might be usefully employed. Excluding the pay of the troops, which would of course fall upon the Indian Government, £5,000 a day would be but a moderate expenditure for the transport and commissariat of the Court, &c., and all other heavy incidental expenses of a Royal Eastern visit, including feast, balls, and durbar expenses, or equal to £300,000 for 60 days. The costs of tents, elephants, horses, &c., and the transport of the Prince, his Court, and baggage to and from India from £50,000 or £60,000. The total might be from £600,000 to £700,000, against which the set-off on saleable and money presents would amount to about half, leaving the actual cost about £350,000, to be provided by the Home and Indian Governments." The writer has evidently forgotten one item; he has not included the jaghirs which an oriental prince generally confers upon loyal and trusty chiefs and subjects, when he visits them for the first time. Such rewards are always cherished with pride by orientals. We do not wish to discuss the programme laid down by Mr. Mackenzie, but we must say that the proposed Royal visit ought to be carried out with pomp and splendour befitting the Future King of the great empire of Hindustan.

Already preparations are being made by the native princes and others to give a fitting reception to His Royal Highness. Grand as was the reception of the Sailor Prince, that of our Future King will of course be on a much grander scale. The time selected for the visit is opportune; in Bengal the people are full of gratitude for the noble efforts made by Government to save the people from the horrors of the Famine of 1874, while in Bombay the feeling is somewhat surcharged in consequence of the unfortunate action taken towards the Gaekwar of Baroda. It will be a most pleasing diversion, when the presence of our Future King

will stimulate all classes of Her Majesty's subjects in a generous rivalry for a display of loyalty and devotion to their gracious Sovereign and the Royal Family.

* WAS THE BARODA COMMISSION A MISTAKE?

THERE is a marked difference of opinion between European and Native critics as to the grounds on which the action of Government on the Baroda question is condemned. Most of the European critics seem to think that the Commission was a blunder, that the Government should have at once deposed the Maharaja on the report of the first Commission, that even if it had hesitated to take the extreme step at once, it had a sufficient justification in the poisoning case. We confess we cannot agree in this line of reasoning. We admit that it was a mistake to have appointed the Commission at all. The enquiry made by the Commissioners has exposed the unreliable character of the evidence on which the charge of poisoning was based. As the *Times* says, it would have been better if no notice had been taken of Col. Phayre's representation. We do not blame the gallant gentleman for sending up his complaint to Government. If he thought his life was in danger he was perfectly justified in preferring a complaint. But it was for the Government to consider whether the case was strong enough to go before a jury. The evidence was collected by Mr. Souter, the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, and laid before Government. This gentleman may be an able officer, well acquainted with the Maharatta character; but he did not shew much judgment in the Bombay Riots' case, and that ought to have cautioned the Government against putting implicit faith in the result of his enquiries. A Police enquiry in this country should as a rule be distrusted; when once the subordinate Police come to know which way the wind blows in official quarters, they are sure to veer their course in that direction. And in the enquiry before the Commission the Police got their deserts from Serjeant Ballantyne. We have had repeated instances of the inventive genius of the Police in our own territories; the other day two innocent persons were very nearly catching the gallows under the gentle manipulation of witnesses by the Police, but fortunately cross-examination broke down their machinations, and yet the Government thought fit to put on trial a Sovereign Prince on an abominable charge on the report of the Police. But having determined upon the trial, the Government could not have followed a more straightforward and honorable course than the appointment of a Commission. This was certainly a novel procedure; it was a violent shock to the traditions of oriental despotism, but if the liberalism, which Englishmen profess, is not a mere cant, what Lord Northbrook did was in perfect accordance with the just and enlightened principles upon which this country is avowedly administered, and which have been followed with great fidelity by His Lordship. Beneficent as British rule in India has in other respects been the verdict of history, we cannot help saying, has not been in its favour as regards its dealings with the Native States. One state after another was taken by conquest or annexation on pretexts, which no civilized country would admit as honorable. The English public did not themselves approve of the unrighteous policy of the spoliation of native states. Thunders were hurled forth in both Houses of Parliament against such violent and unscrupulous acts of aggression and annexation, as each was committed, but practically they had no effect. As soon as one state was annexed there was a temporary flutter, but everything was forgotten as soon as the momentary excitement passed away. Another act was committed and another with the same eagerness and impunity. Then came the baptism of blood in '57; the Company, which had identified itself with this wicked and unrighteous policy, made atonement by surrendering its powers to the Crown and a new era dawned upon the country. Her Gracious Majesty the Queen proclaimed that the rights of the princes and people

of India should be scrupulously respected under her direct administration, but instances were still not wanting of high-handed dealings with native chiefs by some of her Viceroys. One Viceroy deposed the Newab of Tonk without giving him a trial; another commanded the Maharaja of Jodhpore to leave the British territory at once because he would not degrade himself by taking a lower rank in the Ajmere durbar—an insult the like of which is not known in history, and the corroding influence of which perhaps hastened his end. Sharp were the criticisms both here and in England on these proceedings of the Government, and a very decided opinion was expressed in Parliament to the effect that there should be an independent Court for the investigation of the grievances of Indian Princes. Lord Northbrook took a step in advance in appointing a High Commission of Enquiry into the imputations against the Gaekwar. The enlightened wisdom of this move was acknowledged on all sides. The very critics, who now condemn the Commission, were loud in praising the Commission. And was Lord Northbrook wrong? We say emphatically—no! He repudiated from the beginning the idea of annexation, and what could have been more honorable and straight-forward than to have given the Gaekwar a fair and public trial. In the theory* of the English law the meanest felon should not be condemned unheard, and here was a sovereign prince, who whatever his past conduct and whatever the defects of his character was surely entitled at least to a formal enquiry by competent and impartial authorities into the imputations brought against him before he was condemned and deprived of his throne. The Commission was fairly constituted; there were three British officers, and three native chiefs, and if the Commissioners have differed, it was no fault of the Viceroy. His Excellency's decision on the report of the Commission might not command general assent, but the appointment of the Commission shewed the honesty of his intentions. It was quite in keeping with the general character of his administration, and the announcement of the Commission had a most healthy effect upon the native mind. The people of this country were not accustomed to such a constitutional exercise of power; they had been taught to believe that might was right, but Lord Northbrook's action shewed that he was not disposed to make a tyrannous use of his power. Strange to say that Englishmen, instead of feeling grateful to His Lordship for thus vindicating the national character for fair play, condemn that part of the Baroda policy, which is the most honorable to Government.

We are glad to observe that some of the leading organs of English opinion do not join the herd of English critics on this subject. We have seen that the *Times* cordially supports the appointment of the Commission. The *Saturday Review* is of the same opinion. The *Reviewer* says: "If an inquiry was to be made, how was it to be made? It is suggested that the Indian Government would have done much better to have made its inquiry quietly and in its way, to have kept its secret, to have avoided controversy, and to have ultimately announced that the guilt of the Gaekwar was established to its satisfaction, and that it was going to punish him; or that his guilt was not established, and that no further notice of the matter would be taken. The great advantage of this method would have been that no one would ever have been able to say whether the Government was right or wrong. It would have reposed serenely on its prerogative. It would have been exposed to no criticism. It would have afforded no opening for a masterly cross-examination. If it had made a mistake, it would never have been found out, and so its invaluable prestige would have been kept up in the eyes of the natives and of the world. There is some foundation for these suggestions. The particular way in which the Government ought to act in case crimes are imputed to native princes must vary according to circumstances. If for example, a native prince were discovered to have mixed himself up with treasonable practices, if he had been forming a league hostile to us, or attempting to corrupt our native troops, or taking subsidies from any of our Asiatic enemies, it might be wise to arrest him and say nothing about the precise reasons for his arrest. It might be extremely dangerous to let every one know through what perils we had been passing,

The mere fact that the arrest was a political one would justify to every one in India the secrecy with which it had been carried out. But when a native prince is charged with an ordinary crime, one that would be subjected to the examination of a court of law if he were not a prince, the Indian Government may reasonably think that it ought to proceed in a different way. As it is not itself attacked, as its political supremacy is not in question, it may prefer to let every one know what it is doing. The Gaekwar is accused of poisoning, and the Indian Government decides that the inquiry into his guilt shall be a public one, that the evidence against him shall be given in public, and that he shall be allowed the assistance of a masterly cross-examiner. It has had some experience of what happens when this is not allowed. Some years ago a native chief was deposed because he was held to be privy to a plot, the end of which was that a number of his enemies were invited to a banquet and murdered. He bitterly complained that the evidence against him was worthless. The Government ordered a fresh inquiry, and was confirmed in the opinion of his guilt. But he never held his peace, and was constantly complaining of the injustice that had been done him. The rulers of other native states may have thought that they too were liable to be deposed for complicity in alleged crimes established only to the satisfaction of a secret Commission. The occasion presented by the crime imputed to the Gaekwar may have seemed, therefore, to the Indian Government one not to be lost, and it may have wisely decided that in this case publicity and deliberateness in action were preferable to secrecy and a use of the high hand. Much as the subsequent action of the Government is condemned would the very critics who now denounce the Commission have been satisfied if the Gaekwar had been deposed without an enquiry? Would the character of the British nation have been raised in the estimation of the civilized world, if the plot had been hatched in secrecy. We do not hesitate to say that when history will narrate this episode in British Indian administration, it will not fail to give due credit to Lord Northbrook for the manly, straight-forward and honorable course he adopted in appointing the Commission. Those, who condemn the Commission, simply condemn themselves—they imply that they love darkness and not light, and suggest the old saying that they shun the light whose deeds are dark.

THE NEW RENT BILL.

We do not quite understand the drift of the objections taken to the new Rent Bill. The first question is whether or not there is such combination among ryots in certain parts of the country as to put insuperable difficulties in the way of collection of rent, and whether if the evil exists, a proper remedy should be applied. Now, nobody seems to deny that the evil exists. The events in Pubna in 1873 shewed how deep-seated and widespread it was; the contagion spread into other districts and would have spread farther and wider had not the drought of 1874 stilled the angry passions between the ryot and zemindar for the moment, but the disease returned with the return of better seasons. Now, what should the ruling power do under such circumstances—should it sit quiet and silently look on the battle going between the two combatants, or try to restore peace among them if it can? For our part we confess we are not altogether opposed to rent-union—it shews life, vitality, and independence. Single-handed the ryot is not equal or able to resist the oppressions of the zemindar; union is strength, and united the ryots are more than a match for their oppressive landlord. It might also be assumed that a whole body of ryots would not form a combination without a substantial grievance, for which they sought redress in vain. But unfortunately the rent-unions in Pubna were marked with serious outrages, plunder, arson, and shedding of blood. They also shewed that the whole mischief was due to the interested and evil counsel of a few ringleaders. The general peace of the district was endangered by the excesses of the Pubna rioters, and if the same consequences did not ensue in Dacca lately, it was entirely owing to the exertions of the district

officers and the Government. But hitherto the district officers have been essaying to keep the contending parties quiet by their moral influence, but they cannot always trust to their official and personal prestige. In Pubna Mr. Nolan himself confessed his inability to bring the ryots to terms when he had induced the zemindars to accept a compromise. He sent for the ringleaders, but they would not listen to him. What is to be done under the circumstances? Supposing that the ryots do not resort to excesses, and that they offer only a passive resistance to the zemindar, the difficulty remains the same. The ryots withhold the payment of rent *en masse*; the zemindar must sue them for default; he must institute hundreds and thousands of suits; on the one hand he must pay the Government revenue either from his own pocket, or as is often the case by borrowing money, and on the other hand he must find funds for institution fees and other expenses for the conduct of the suits; under the civil court procedure the suits cannot ordinarily be disposed of within a shorter period than six months, if not a longer period; when suits are instituted by hundreds and thousands the Government must considerably multiply the number of courts, and even then we doubt whether there would not be greater delay than ordinarily in the disposal of suits; and if this game of litigation be repeated at every time an instalment falls due, we do not know where the disputes will end. It is a most abnormal state of things, and constitutes, as Mr. Dampier justly says, a scandal to Government. Is it not then the manifest and paramount duty of the Government to devise some measure for remedying this scandalous state of things? We do not hesitate to say that no right-minded man will answer in the negative.

Such being the case Sir Richard Temple has proposed a summary law to provide for enquiry into rent disputes with a view to prevent agrarian disputes. This is an exceptional measure, and will be introduced under exceptional circumstances. It would be introduced, to quote Babu Degumber Mitter, "where agrarian troubles would break out, and the ordinary machinery of the law would necessarily come to a dead-lock, and under such exceptional circumstances exceptional remedies must be applied." If the necessity of the law is admitted, then the question is whether the proposed Bill will meet the requirements of the case. The Bill will not of course be general in its effect or operation. In the first place it will not be brought into force unless the Government is moved by either zemindars or ryots; the law will not thus be one-sided. The grounds for interference mentioned are three—disputes as to measurement, rate of rent, or arrears of rent, and the Lieutenant Governor will consider whether the disputes are such as to endanger the general peace and tranquillity of the district. The Lieutenant Governor will then appoint the Collector or such other officer as he may think fit to enquire and report as to the rate of rent payable. The Board of Revenue will lay down rules as to how the enquiry is to be made. The Collector's general enquiry and conclusions will not be final. He is to submit his proposals to the Commissioner, who is to submit the same with his opinion to the Board, whose decision will be final. Although there is no right of appeal, the parties affected, so far as we understand the Bill, will be competent to make their objections to the Commissioner and the Board. After the final order is given by the Board on the general question of the rate of rent applicable to the district or part of a district as the case may be, the Collector is to apply the scale of rates to particular cases, and his decision, thus arrived at, will have a currency for ten years. With regard to simple arrears of rent, that is in cases where the amount due is only in dispute, we believe the Board will lay down separate rules, and the Collector's decision will be given under those rules without reference to the Commissioner or the Board, though it will be open to the parties to apply to either the Commissioner or the Board under their general powers of supervision and control. The Bill furthermore provides that the ryots may be sued collectively, and that the Collector may decide in one proceeding the cases of as many ryots as he may think fit. This part of the Bill is optional and not obligatory.

These are certainly extraordinary powers, and it is a fair question to consider whether these powers would promote the ends of justice. It would be absurd to say that the Bill is not susceptible of improvement; what we cannot understand is unreasoning opposition to the Bill as a measure. When the Pubna riots were in their full swing, both the zemindars and ryots or rather their friends wanted some such measure. We then suggested the appointment of a Commission, and our suggestion was more or less supported by our contemporaries. Even the *Friend of India* represented by Dr. Smith wrote as follows on the subject: "The late disturbances in the Pubna district, which have now extended partially to other places, show amongst other things that there is a large margin of unadjusted differences between the landlords and the cultivators of the soil, which the present laws have entirely failed to settle. The landlords have no doubt been justly blamed for their grasping avarice, whilst the ryots, by making the most unreasonable demand that their rents are not to be enhanced at all, have also shown themselves to be in the wrong. Now when both sides are to blame and neither is likely to agree to the terms of the other party, it is certainly the duty of the Government to step in between them, and in a just and impartial manner do what, it is quite evident, they are totally incapable of doing for themselves. That the same disputes are going on over the whole of Bengal any one acquainted with the country and the people must know. They vary in intensity according to circumstances, but that the elements of discord are rife almost everywhere nobody will deny. Landlords are avaricious more or less over the whole country, and the ryots being also obstinate and ignorant, cannot be expected to admit that those to whom they pay their rents, are entitled to share in the general prosperity or participate in the enhanced value of the products of the soil which they have not assisted to raise. They apparently forget, or do not choose to own, that the remarkable rise in the value of agricultural products which has taken place during the last twelve years, has occurred independently of the agency of either party, and therefore that both are equally entitled to profit by it." The writer continued: "That the laws as they exist at present are insufficient to meet the difficulties of the case will be generally admitted, and also that they have failed to secure proper protection to the cultivators. On the other hand it is also equally clear that landlords are unable to assert their rights without having recourse to a most expensive and tedious course of litigation, which is ruinous to one or other of the parties, and only benefits the members of the legal profession, who fatten on the disputes of the contending parties. What generally takes place is somewhat as follows. A raiser of rent, considering himself entitled to more than the rent-payer is willing to give, either at once issues a notice of enhancement under Sec. 13 of Act X. of 1859 or proceeds to measure the lands. If opposed in that he applies to the Collector to have them measured for him, and the rents ascertained under Section 10 of Act XI. of 1862, and then issues his notice of enhancement. These, however, are merely preliminary proceedings and nothing further can be done until a year has elapsed from the serving of the notice, when should a settlement have not been come to in the interim, a case is instituted in Court to recover the rent at the enhanced rate. If fortunate, a decision is obtained in six months, or from eighteen months or two years after the issue of notice, or between two and three years from the time measurements were made. Now during all this time any one who knows what goes on in a Bengalee village while these proceedings are pending, will readily understand the disputes and quarrels that are engendered thereby, and the opportunities that are thus afforded for concocting evidence and preparing forged documents to support the contentions of each party. Whilst proceedings of this nature are going on the worst passions of the contending parties are aroused, leading in some places to the murder of the landlord and to other outrages which involve the parties, concerned in the most serious consequences." He thus concluded:

"No one will say that such a state of things is otherwise than disgraceful; the law is partially responsible for having brought about such deplorable results. The delay that takes place is the chief defect. As there is no necessity whatever why such delay should take place the remedy to be offered is

not difficult to conceive nor impossible of attainment. As the contentions that are going on between the landlords and their tenants are more likely to increase than diminish, the time appears to have arrived when a review of the position should be taken by the Legislature and such remedies be offered as the case may appear to demand. What appears to be wanted is a law which, while on the one hand it would secure to the landlord his just share of the profits derivable from the general rise of prices and the extension of cultivation, would on the other give to the cultivators absolute security against any enhancement of their rents for a certain period of time. To be successful the remedies to be applied must be perfectly fair to both parties, or whilst either of them has any real cause of complaint there can by no possibility be any chance of the measures adopted proving successful."

"What appears to be required is a law by which the landlord or the tenants might cause the estate to be settled through the intervention of the Collector, who should be empowered to classify the lands, fix the rates of rent payable thereon, record the rights of all parties and, in fact, carry out just what is done in all Government estates in Bengal."

"As the Government would not directly benefit by such settlements the expense of making them must of course be borne by the parties. Where the application for settlement was made by the landlord, the whole of the expense would generally have to be borne by him, as such application would rarely be made unless he was pretty sure to benefit by the settlement to an extent which would repay him the cost. When made by the ryots, the Government would in the first instance have to advance the funds for the purpose, and if the settlement resulted in a loss or no gain to the landlord the expense of it might be added to the rents to be paid by the ryot and the cost be recovered gradually through the landlord. When the expense was only partially covered by the increase of assets accruing to the landlord, the difference would then have to be made up by the tenants, and this difference and the balance recovered by the Government from the landlord. The expense when calculated against the gross rental would not be large. Even when the whole had to be paid by the ryots, if spread over a term of years it would scarcely be felt. In no case would the Government be ultimately a loser, and as such settlements would have the effect of stopping litigation, the slight inconvenience of laying out the capital would be met by the gradual decrease it would be possible to make as the settlements progressed, in the number of Courts which now have to be provided for the trial of revenue cases, to undertake the settlement of the whole of the estates comprised within the limits of Bengal at once, would of course be an impossibility. But such is not proposed. A settlement would have to be undertaken only as applications were received and could only be taken in hand as establishment became available, which could not be objected to provided the settlements were commenced in the order that applications were received. Where no disputes existed neither party would apply for settlement. But wherever the rents paid by the cultivators were lower than what was fair and equitable, or the landlords found it difficult to collect their rents from disputes existing as to what was due, there the landlords would no doubt gladly avail themselves of the Government agency to settle their estates whilst on the other hand, in estates where the cultivators had been rack-rented or over-assessed, there they would be the parties to apply. In no case would application be made unless good and sufficient cause existed for it. The law would in no way affect existing rights, could not possibly do any harm, and would only come into operation on the requisition of one or other of the interested parties, who might make use of it or leave it alone just as they pleased."

"That the landlords have a right to obtain from the occupants of the soil what is fairly their due, has already been conceded to them by the laws of the land, though from the difficulty, delay and expense of putting the law in operation, this is practically denied to many, and would be impossible of attainment when the ryots combined to dispute their liabilities. The great desideratum for the cultivators is comparative fixity of rents and a freedom from arbitrary demands. Such a settlement as was proposed, accompanied as it would be by the delivery of patas to every ryot, would be the means of gradually producing order out of chaos. As the people would thus be brought into immediate contact with the officers of Government, which very seldom occurs in Bengal, great facilities would be offered of explaining to them their rights and liabilities so that every one would know exactly how he stood towards his landlord."

It will be observed that Sir Richard Temple's Bill is based on the plan sketched by the *Friend*. The only objection that can reasonably be taken to the plan is the wide discretion left to the Collector. No principles are laid down in the Bill for the guidance of the Collector, but rules will be prescribed by the Board of Revenue. Now, if rules are to be laid down by the Board, why may not the same rules be embodied in the Bill? The reason why we ask the embodiment of the rules in the Bill is that they may not be altered at the discretion of the executive authorities. Sir Richard Temple may hold the balance of justice with an even hand, but his successor may have his own crotchets, and he may change the rules to the detriment of either the ryots or zemindars. There are two ways in our humble opinion of accomplishing the object aimed at. The first is that the enquiry as to the rate of rent should be held by a Commission as originally suggested by us, viz., by an experienced revenue officer, and the representatives of the zemindar and ryots to be named by them respectively. The Commissioners should act like arbitrators—they should make the needful enquiry according to the rules to be laid down in the Bill, and if they are unanimous their decisions as to the rate of rent should be final, but if they disagree, their opinions should be submitted to the Board at once, and the

judgment of that authority should be conclusive. After the general rate is fixed, the Collector may apply it to individual cases, and from his decisions in such cases one appeal may be allowed. It will be observed that in commenting on the Pubna riots the Governor General in Council had authorized the Bengal Government to pass a law for "the appointment of a special Commission vested with powers to investigate summarily the differences between landlord and tenant." The Lieutenant Governor adds that "the matters thus decided would not be open to revision by the civil courts, but appeals would lie to the Commissioner and the Board." Thus our suggestions are in unison with the views expressed by His Excellency the Viceroy and His Honor the Lieutenant Governor. The second plan is what Babu Degumber Mitter suggests. The decision of the Collector should have effect for two years without right of appeal to the contending parties, but they should be at liberty at the end of two years and within a fixed term to move the Civil Court to revise the decision. In that case the general Rent-law should be simplified and amended. But in our opinion in either case the Rent-law should be revised. If the Commission which we suggest should work to the satisfaction of all parties, its scope might be extended, and all rent disputes might be decided in accordance with the principles on which its decisions may be based. From what we have said above it will be seen that the necessity of some law for the prevention of agrarian disturbances is undeniable, that the present Bill is a move in the right direction, but that it should be amended and improved.

THE SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

We have much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following letter from the Private Secretary to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal to Dr. Mahendralal Sircar, the projector of the Science Association:

The Shrubbery, Darjeeling, May 3rd 1875.

DEAR SIR—The Lieutenant Governor desires me to acknowledge your letter of the 8th ultimo, explaining that the meeting intended to be held on behalf of the Scientific Society had been postponed, and that it is proposed to hold a meeting at some future time, or whenever His Honor might be in Calcutta, and expressing your hope that he will accord a general support to the Society's operations.

I am to state in reply that the Lieutenant Governor continues to feel much interest in the progress of the Society as constituting a spontaneous and unaided effort on the part of the natives themselves to promote the spread of Practical Science among the people of Bengal. The Government indeed sympathizes with any aspirations which the natives may have in this respect, and will itself do what it can in this direction. Better and more efficacious still, however, will be the exertions which educated native gentlemen like yourself and others, may put forth of their own free will for the improvement of their countrymen in scientific knowledge.

Science may be pursued for its own sake in the abstract, and for the mental pleasure it affords and such pursuit is most laudable. There doubtless are many native gentlemen in Bengal who will thus pursue it.

But Science also may be made to add immeasurably to the national wealth and so to afford lucrative employment to numberless persons according to their qualifications and acquirements. The field which thus seems to open itself in Bengal ought to give encouragement to every Bengalee, who is anxious to earn his own livelihood. When we reflect upon the demand which is springing up in all parts of Bengal for Land Surveyors, for Civil Engineers, for Trained Mechanics, for Mining Engineers, for Geological Surveyors, for Veterinary Practitioners, for Practical Botanists, for Foresters, for Gardeners of a superior description, for persons versed in Scientific Agriculture, for Engravers, for Lithographers, for carvers in wood and stone, for Architects, for medical men, for Practical Chemists and for many other sorts of men possessing scientific and artistic culture, we see what a favourable vista is beginning to display itself before the rising generation, at least in this part of the country. The more such persons increase in number and abilities, the more will the resources of the country grow, and the more will employment expand. Thus, one cause will react upon the others. The fact of trained men being available on the spot, will render enterprise profitable; and the success of such undertaking will cause occupation to offer itself to those who seek it.

Moreover, by these means, not only will many new industries be introduced in Bengal, but almost every one of the old established arts and manufactures of the country may be rendered more useful and remunerative than at present.

It is probable that our educated youths will betake themselves more and more to such pursuits, when they shall see more fully, what they already are beginning to perceive, that the two principal of the existing professions, viz. the public service and the Bar are fast becoming overstocked. Let any one calculate on the one hand the rising number of highly educated young men who are yearly issuing forth from our colleges and schools, and on the other hand, the comparatively small number, to whom the public service and the Bar can at least supply the means of livelihood, and he will observe at once, that the young Bengalees who are coming forward year by year must search for other walks of life, wherein to exercise their talents and industry. The Lieutenant Governor hopes that they will turn by

degrees at first and afterwards rapidly, towards the other and varied pursuits indicated above.

Now, it is for the encouragement of scientific pursuits among your own countrymen that the Lieutenant Governor understands your Society to be instituted. However much the Government itself may move in the same direction, there is more than enough room for a co-operative movement by the natives for this object. Such a movement on your part, will be the more valuable will be the more powerful in its moral effects, if it be advanced to a successful result by your own efforts alone without any help from Government.

However much the Government may sympathize with your views generally, your work will have all the more vitality and abiding reality if its details be settled by yourselves without any specific guidance from the State.

From what the Lieutenant Governor has seen (greatly to his satisfaction), of yourself and of several of your supporters, he has every confidence that you will be able to elaborate plans calculated to redound to the material benefit of your countrymen for whose welfare you feel a justly patriotic regard.

Sir Richard Temple will therefore not attempt to offer to your Society any particular suggestion but will content himself with assuring you of his cordial and earnest wishes for your practical success.

Yours truly,
(Sd.) F. P. STAPLES, SURGEON MAJOR,
Offg. Private Secy.

TO MAHENDRALAL SIRCAR, M. D.

We feel deeply grateful to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor for this expression of sympathy with the objects of the Science Association. It will prove a tower of strength to the promoters of the Association. When the head of the Government expresses his appreciation of the objects of the Association in such kind and encouraging terms, our countrymen, who are still lukewarm on the subject, will doubtless feel doubly quickened, and come forward liberally in aid of the project. By far the most important feature in the educational policy of Sir Richard Temple is his desire to promote a study of the practical sciences with a view to open to the educated classes new spheres of employment and usefulness, and if he pursues this object perseveringly, he will confer an inestimable benefit upon the country.

It will be observed that the Lieutenant Governor does not say anything beyond an expression of personal sympathy with the objects of the Association. It is certainly, as we have already observed, very valuable, but we trust His Honor will see fit to accord to the Association substantial encouragement from the State. The institution as His Honor justly holds should be purely Indian—Indian in origin, maintenance and conduct. But a vast project of this kind in no civilized country has up to this day been carried out entirely by voluntary contributions. A national institution of such wide usefulness ought to be supported from the national exchequer. Such has been the practice in England. Take the Royal Institution, on the model of which Dr. Sircar's Science Association is we believe projected; it is largely subsidised by Government, and so is the Royal Society. The former serves the cause of Science by the delivery of popular lectures and research; the latter by investigation and experiments. The British Association is similarly aided, and so is the Royal School of Miners, where too lectures are delivered. Then the State has provided house-accommodation for some of the leading scientific institutions of England. The Royal Society, the Royal Asiatic Society, the Royal Geographical Society and several others are located in buildings erected by Government. In the same way the Government of India provided land for the erection of the present premises of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and also contributed to the building fund; it now pays that body Rs. 400 per month for house-rent, and has furnished quarters for it in the new Museum building. Besides it makes a further contribution of Rs. 750 to the funds of the Asiatic Society. When the Museum was under the management and control of the Asiatic Society, it used to give Rs. 500 for its maintenance. Lately it gave to Mr. Blythe, Curator of the Museum, a pension of Rs. 200 per month, though that gentleman was an officer of the Society. In the same manner the Government contributed Rs. 500 in aid of the Agri-Horticultural Society, and has lately commuted the grant by giving the present site for its garden. The Government has we believe consented to provide the land for the proposed Zoological Gardens. The other day Sir Richard Temple gave Father Lafont Rs. 5,000 for his spectroscopic observatory on condition that the public should subscribe a like sum. On the same principle the Science Association may justly claim from the State a rupee for every other rupee subscribed by the public. If in conformity with these

examples the Government provides a building for local habitation of the projected Science Association, no time need be lost in starting it at once. The reader might remember that there is a Parliamentary grant of about two lakhs of rupees or more for the diffusion of scientific knowledge in India, and there is annually set apart in the Budget a large grant for Science and Art. If the Government will but give a slice out of this grant for the benefit of the projected Association, it will afford a most substantial encouragement to the project. Some of our countrymen have already come forward nobly in furtherance of the scheme, but the whole amount that may be fairly expected from subscriptions for the present will fall far short of the requirements of the institution. If Dr. Sircar succeeds in obtaining one lakh of rupees, will it suffice for his purpose?—how much of it will he apply to the erection of the building, how much to the purchase of instruments and books, and how much to maintenance? Sir Richard Temple will leave an enduring monument of his administration; if he will lend his powerful help in building a Temple of Science in Bengal.

ENGLISH OPINION ON THE BARODA COMMISSION.

WE GAVE last week extracts from the *Times* and the *Pall Mall Gazette* on the Gaekwar's trial. We propose to lay before the reader extracts from other leading papers. The *Spectator*, the admirer and supporter of the Dalhousian policy of annexation says:

"If the Gaekwar is not restored, the three Native assessors to begin with, are disgraced men, and we can never again summon a Native Prince to sit in judgment upon his brethren; while Holkar, the most astute of Marhattas, will be able to ask with triumph whether he was not wise. That may not matter, we have risked the wrath of Marhatta Princes often enough before; but what does matter is the belief which will go forth among the natives that the Government of India will not abide by its own word, that its pledges, even when voluntarily given, without compulsion of any sort, are no guarantee for its inviolable fidelity. It is nonsense to say no pledges were given to the Gaekwar or to opinion. They were given in the fact that he was allowed, necessarily, it may be, or foolishly, or stupidly, a public trial. Suppose the same Government allowed a prisoner to claim the ordeal by battle, the most senseless, perhaps, of all the tests of innocence ever invented by men, would the senselessness of the process justify those who ordered it in executing the victor, or flogging him for escaping actual death? And if it would not justify it, at what point does the illustration fail? The common sense of justice in all human beings rebels against such unfairness, which leaves the accused every liability and no chance; and if the award is not accepted, we may rely on it that all natives of India will pronounce us unjust men, that all Native Princes will consider that an accusation means a sentence, and that the next act will be followed by a desperate and sanguinary resistance. If a man is to be punished whether condemned or not, why should he consent to undergo a trial? We cannot conceive anything more injurious to the Empire than the spread of such an impression. The natives of India do not love us. They do not, except in the domain of material civilisation, greatly respect us. But they do acknowledge that Englishmen will, if obeyed, do justice to their own hurt. Now is that belief, the very keystone of our prestige, to be preserved, if a Sovereign who, on promise of a public trial and judgment according to the evidence, surrenders peaceably, finds that with no verdict against him his judge still proceeds to announce his doom. We do not believe that it will happen and if it does, shall fear that the result on native opinion will be worse than that of any secret inquiry, condemnation, and sentence could by possibility have been."

The *Saturday Review* writes as follows:

"As the action of the Indian Government is political as well as judicial, it is open to the freest criticism. The Viceroy can be asked to observe that he is in a regular fix, and that whatever he does he will be held to be doing wrong. To have appointed a Commission at all was very foolish, and now the Viceroy is only reaping the fruits of the silly seeds he sowed. If he thinks the Gaekwar guilty, his judgment will carry no weight, for he will be acting in opposition to the opinion of the clearest of the Commissioners, whoever they may be. If he thinks the Gaekwar innocent, he will appear in the light of a person who has tried to hurt a poor harmless Prince to death, and has ignominiously failed in the attempt. And then, unless he is prepared to say that the guilt of the Gaekwar is established, Lord Northbrook must allow him to resume the Government of Baroda during at least the remainder of his probationary term. But Lord Northbrook must not suppose he is going to feel happy if he does this. The Gaekwar will be restored, but not in a perfectly creditable manner. In the opinion of some of the members of the Commission he will have been held guilty of an attempt at assassination, and although it will be evident to the keen scrutiny of accomplished English critics that it will only be the loss of able and intelligent members of the Commission who can have come to such an absurd conclusion, and remained unaffected by a masterpiece of cross examination such as perhaps had never been known before in an Indian court, yet the rude creatures who live under the rule of the Gaekwar may fail to catch this nice distinction, and may feel an unreasonable nervousness about the habits and propensities of their restored sovereign. If Lord Northbrook reflects a little, he cannot fail to see that he really is in a fix, and that the eagle eyes which have traced and exposed his blunders before he has made them, will have no difficulty in showing that the consequences of these blunders, when he has made them, are even more disastrous than could have been anticipated."

"If the case is open to doubt, there is naturally a chance that all the members of the Commission may not be impressed by the evidence in the same way. They are not, however, to decide; they are merely to lay before the Government the evidence they have collected, and to state what they think of this evidence. It follows that, if the Government decides that guilt is established, it may be adopting the opinion not of a unanimous Commission, but of a majority of the Commissioners. But it does not at all follow that, if it adopts the

opinion of a majority, it is doing wrong. Last year an Englishman was accused by a native of violence, and was sentenced by a magistrate to imprisonment. He appealed, and of the two judges of the court of appeal one believed the native prosecutor, the other thought that his story was a tissue of lies. As there was this conflict of opinion Lord Northbrook was appealed to, and he was asked to release the prisoner. He refused, and the ground of his refusal was that two out of three persons who had examined into the facts had come to the conclusion that the alleged act of violence had been really committed. The course taken by Lord Northbrook was held up by the native press as the triumph of justice and good sense. If natives tell story, and yet justice is not to take its course because a minority of the judges disbelieve the evidence, English rule would, as these critics urged, be a mere reign of oppression. They might say exactly the same thing if a majority of the Commission believed the native witnesses against the Gaekwar, and yet Lord Northbrook let the Gaekwar off because a minority of the Commission thought the native witnesses were liars. The fix in which he is said to be may appear quite imaginary to Lord Northbrook. He was only to receive the report and act as he thinks right; and whichever way he decides, he may entertain a comfortable conviction that the English Government will be strong enough to deal with the affairs of Baroda."

We should correct the *Saturday Review* on one point. The writer has evidently forgotten the main facts of Mr. Meares' case. It was not that two Judges of the High Court were divided, and that the Governor General exercised his own judgment and did not release the prisoner. The facts were that the first appellate Court was divided, and then the Chief Justice was called in who sided with the convicting Judge, and on that ground the Lieutenant Governor, not the Governor General, refused to exercise the prerogative of the Crown for mercy.

The *Daily News* says:

"Every precaution was taken for the fairness of the trial and so far the Government of India has to be congratulated on its success. Yet it was impossible not to perceive that it had committed itself to a work of the gravest responsibility. The Commission of Inquiry was no sooner appointed than the question began to be asked at Calcutta, what should be the position of Lord Northbrook and his advisers if the Commissioners should disbelieve the witnesses brought forward to establish the guilt of the Gaekwar? In those circumstances Alulharao might or might not be restored to his throne, but the prestige of the Indian Government would certainly be impaired, and the confidence of all Native Princes rudely shaken. Lord Northbrook, we cannot doubt, had anticipated these objections; and in resolving not to proceed against Gaekwar in the exercise of his prerogative, but to let him have a fair and public trial, he has acted in a way which at least shows the fairness and impartiality of his Government."

The Commissioners have taken twelve days to deliberate on the evidence, and we cannot be surprised that they should think it too uncertain to form the basis of a conviction. If the evidence of the principal witnesses—pardoned approvers—had been as conclusive against the Gaekwar as it was against themselves, he must have been found guilty; but it would have been a misfortune if a Native Prince had been condemned upon any but the most convincing testimony. Lord Northbrook who, as representing the Queen, will now have to deal with the Gaekwar upon his own judgment, is expected to issue a proclamation in the course of the next few days, in which, whatever else may be its effect, he cannot help showing with what strict and impartial justice the Gaekwar has been treated."

The *Morning Post* observes:

"The disagreement of the Baroda Commission brings the inquiry into the guilt or innocence of the Gaekwar to the least satisfactory conclusion which could possibly be arrived at. The Government of Lord Northbrook will have its task rendered infinitely more difficult by this most untoward termination of a great political investigation, and it will require all the best, good sense, and high impartiality which the present Viceroy of India has already shown during his term of office, in order to extricate the Administration from so knotty and tangled an affair. If the Gaekwar be innocent, the sterile result of the inquiry is a real injustice to him. If on the other hand, he be guilty, the absence of a decision affirmative of his criminality must place the Imperial Government in a situation of more than painful embarrassment. In fact, whether he be innocent or guilty, the unexpected *fiasco* of the judicial proceedings cannot fail to produce a crop of difficulties on every side. How can the Sovereign of Baroda, accused of the heinous crime of compassing by poison the life of the British representative at his Court, be restored to his principality while he is still unacquainted of the date of his offence? But again, how can he be permanently deposed when the appointed tribunal has been unable to come to an opinion adverse to his innocence? Would not this be to treat a possibly innocent and already much injured man as a convicted offender? Would it not be making accusation and guilt practically synonymous, and can it be doubted that the impression produced upon the native populations and princes would in this case be extremely harmful to that confidence in the Imperial Government which is one of the strongest bulwarks of our dominion in India?"

The *Standard* says:

"If the result of the Baroda trial has been such as has been announced, it will add greatly to the difficulties of the Government in deciding upon the course to be pursued towards the Gaekwar. The members of the Commission are, it is said, unable to agree upon a verdict; and the matter is, therefore, thrown back into the hands of the Executive Power. Such a conclusion, which should have been foreseen as one of the possible outcomes of the inquiry, justifies the doubts and fears of those who, like ourselves, have from the beginning hesitated to approve of Lord Northbrook's policy towards the late ruler of Baroda. The question is, what course will be taken with Mulharao now that he has not been found guilty of the crimes attributed to him, and yet has been deposed from his throne. To reinstate him in his former power is clearly impossible. Such a proceeding will be equivalent to an admission not only that the Government has been wrong in suspecting him of poisoning Colonel Phayre, but that it has been defeated by the weapons of its own choosing, in spite of its paramount authority. To punish him by depriving him of his throne will appear like an act of revenge, and a contempt of those very principles of justice which we have invoked. It will induce the world to believe that we had prejudged the case before the trial—that, guilty or innocent, we had resolved to punish the Gaekwar—that the whole inquiry was a mere

ery, seeing that we never intended to act upon the decision which we went through the form of demanding."

The *Examiner* writes:

"To-day, it is anticipated, the Baroda Commission will disclose its judgment upon the charges brought against the Gaekwar Mulharao. It cannot be said that this decision, to whatever side it may incline, must be accepted as final, for the Commission in truth possesses no judicial authority. It will report upon the evidence to the Viceroy, and the Viceroy will act in the exercise of his political discretion upon the facts that the Commission hold to be proved. Thus it appears that the range of probable issues has been carefully narrowed. The Commission cannot take cognizance of any of those allegations of misgovernment which have given Baroda a bad name; and the Government of India is "estopped" from reverting to those general considerations of Mulharao's fitness for sovereignty by the terms of the admonitory message which was sent to the Gaekwar's Court last summer. Then the Marhatta Prince was warned that unless the Government showed signs of improvement, he would, at the end of a year and a-half, be removed from the government of the Principality. Therefore, unless some new and grave reason can be assigned, the Viceroy cannot, with any respect for decent consistency, decree Mulharao's deposition. There remain only the charges which were directly and before the Commissioners at Baroda, and have been reported upon to the Supreme Government. These are, in substance, two—the first, as defined by the Queen's Advocate, is that the Gaekwar "tampered with the servants of the Residency;" the second is that he incited the persons with whom he thus put himself in communication to attempt the murder of their master, the representative of the Imperial authority. It appears matter for regret that the former charge was put forward as a separate allegation at all; it means simply that the Gaekwar employed spies to watch the proceedings of the Resident, whom, it is admitted, he disliked and feared. No doubt this is an improper thing to do, but it is hardly a matter on which a private person could be criminally brought to trial, much less a Prince ruling what is still in some respects an independent State, could be threatened with degradation and deposition. We venture to say that there is hardly a British officer of high rank in India, whether administering civil government in our own dominions, or watching the results of native rule in the dominions of our feudatory princes, who has not been thus watched by spies in the interest, real or imaginary, of some native Rajah or Zemindar, or merely Rahoo. The practice is so common that it is accepted as one of the inevitable disadvantages of Indian life, like the insect plagues against which Europeans harden themselves. It would be thought hard measure to remove from the public service, for indulgence in this universal passion of espionage, the humblest Bengalee deputy-magistrate; and the notion of deposing, for such a trivial reason, one of the three great Marhatta sovereigns, is altogether preposterous. It is upon the second charge, then, that the case against Mulharao rests entirely on the graver accusation of the attempt to murder. With regard to this we have no hesitation in admitting that, if proved to the satisfaction of the Commissioners, the Viceroy will not want a justification for using the paramount power that has been delegated to him for the punishment of the offender in any manner that may appear expedient. If any European sovereign were to attempt the life of the ambassador of a foreign Power, no one denies that the attempt would constitute a *casus belli*; and wherever a *casus belli* would arise between two independent States, it is apparent that a sovereign—if we may use this analogous feudal expression in speaking of Oriental affairs—may employ his paramount power for the purpose of punishment. Whether it be expedient to do so is, of course, another question. We could not pronounce upon that with any confidence unless we knew more intimately than any person not living in India can know, the feelings of the Indian population and of the native princes. But Lord Northbrook and his advisers know these things more thoroughly than anyone else, for the scope of their view is wider than that of any individual observer, and all the conditions of the political problem—external and internal—are, or ought to be, present to their minds. It can hardly be doubted that whatever action may be taken upon the Commissioners' report will be taken with a due sense of the enormous responsibility of all moral movements among the Oriental peoples."

Thus opinion is almost unanimous in the London Press as to the course which lay before the Government on this important subject.

EXCISE REFORM.

THE last number of the *Gazette of India* contains valuable correspondence between the Government of Bengal and that of India on the subject of Excise Reform. Mr. Money of the Board of Revenue has recorded a masterly minute on abkari administration of Bengal, which is followed up with an able and excellent minute from His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. The former vigorously vindicates the Government from the charge often brought against it of encouraging the consumption of intoxicating liquors and drugs for the sake of revenue. He shews by a clever array of facts and figures that drunkenness is not a national vice of the Hindus as has been represented by some of the memorialists. He remarks:

"While I entirely concur with the petitioners in their regret that sobriety is not a characteristic of the Bengalee to the same extent as formerly, I cannot but think they have painted in exaggerated colors the evils of increased consumption of liquor. One Petitioner, Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen, thus describes them:—"Crime and immorality are also, in a large measure, attributable to this cause. The instances of petty crimes and heinous offences committed under the influence of drink are of frequent occurrence, as may be proved by the criminal records of the country." * * * "It is indeed harrowing and painful to contemplate the extent to which sensuality, profligacy, and brutal revels on the one hand, and irreligion, blasphemy, and practical atheism on the other, are making ravages among all classes of the native community in consequence of the spread of drunkenness, and undermining the religious and moral life of the nation." * * * "In short, the use of intoxicating liquor has done more than anything else to degrade the physical, moral, and social condition of my countrymen, and has proved a stupendous obstacle in the path of reformation."

Patriots and Philanthropists of all classes, who are engaged in diverse ways in ameliorating the condition of the people always complain that this great evil seriously counteracts and frustrates their efforts."

This kind of sensational writing only misleads. In one of the reports I have received on this subject, written by a clever medical officer, I am informed that "Young Bengal signifies an incarnation of brandy and immorality." My own observation and the hard test of figures do not bear out these statements. Excluding imported spirits and liquor, the consumption of licit drink in Bengal is equal to the revenue value of just over 7 pies per head yearly, i.e., 3½ farthings, or about Rs. 25,81,604 in the gross. Including them, the consumption is just 10 pie per head yearly, or about Rs. 38,16,847 in the gross. But these latter figures include the consumption of the European community, who certainly are the chief consumers of imported wines and spirits.

There is no real comparison between this state of things and the extent to which drink has become a national curse in England. The capital there employed in the liquor trade was calculated two or three years ago by Professor Levi at £11,400,000, or one-third more than the whole capital employed in the cotton trade, and the revenue derived by the consumption of drink is in round numbers about £1 or Rs. 10 per head of the population. But there are other differences. The country spirit in Bengal is generally a weak spirit, so that drunkenness is an exceptional effect, and the tendency of the people is not towards crimes of violence. Drink develops this tendency where it exists, but it does not create it; and as regards dispositions to other offences, these are but slightly acted upon by drink. The criminal records of the country do not, as far as my experience goes, substantiate the statements in the petitions."

Whatever might have been the case before, Mr. Money denies emphatically that the Government now encourages the consumption of liquor by its fiscal regulations and by rewarding over-zealous Abkari officers. He thus concludes:

"It is, however, mere foolishness to expect that a certain proportion of the people of this country will not continue to use stimulants, or that the excise revenue will not increase. As the upper classes adopted more and more European habits, we must expect to see them take the bad with the good, and probably at first even more of the bad than of the good, while as the position of the lower classes improves, as agricultural produce yields a better price to the cultivator, and yearly the number increases of men, women, and children, who earn a livelihood, such as they never dreamt of, in mills and factories there will be a larger consumption of everything the mass of the people care for. They will wear more clothes, they will eat more food, and they will drink more liquor. Any attempt to enforce sobriety in a country where illicit distillation is so easy of detection would be a failure. All we can do is to limit ourselves to supplying the demand, and not to create it, to open no new shop except on proof that they are required to meet an existing want, and to act on an honest recognition of the truth that the excise revenue is a very small matter in comparison with the comfort and well-being of the people."

The Lieutenant Governor's minute shews that His Honor is full of earnestness for reform in this important matter. His Honor thus elucidates and vindicates the present action of Government:

"On the one hand it is matter for regret that so many estimable persons should feel themselves obliged to entertain such apprehensions; on the other hand it is matter for satisfaction that so many of the leaders of Native society, and so many European gentlemen, whose good disposition must give them influence with the natives, are manifesting a lively interest in these questions. Whatever may be the action of Government, there can be no doubt that the moral force of opinion will be effective and beneficial; and the memorials now under consideration supply an earnest that this force will be duly brought into play. If, therefore, I am unable to follow the memorialists in all their statements, have to differ with some portions of their opinions, I should still desire to evince every respect towards their views."

They may be sure that the Government entirely agrees with them in thinking that any general excess in the consumption of liquors, spirits, or drugs is really a national evil; that, so far from encouraging its existence or its growth for the sake of the revenue, the Government already does, and will willingly do, everything in its power to impose a check, or to exercise repression upon any excess; and that the efforts of Government in this direction are only limited by considerations of the practicability or otherwise of attaining actual success in such repression. Whether or not in former periods, separated by many years from the present time, the excise laws, or the administration of them, may have indirectly led to expansion of the consumption, it has been shown that no such effect has been produced during recent years, and that on the contrary every endeavour is made to prevent any such effect arising. The result of the fiscal regulations of Government now is to render liquors, spirits, and drugs dearer than they would otherwise be; to place some artificial restrictions on the production and sale of these articles; and *Pro tanto* to impose a check on consumption. It is impossible to doubt that but for these fiscal regulations the consumption would be greater than it is, and that if the present system of taxation upon these articles, and the consequent interference on the part of the State were to be abandoned, there would be an increase in the consumption. If it be an object morally (as I quite admit it to be) to do all we properly can to prevent the consumption exceeding reasonable limits, then that object is in some degree effected by the fiscal interference, without which indeed even this degree would not be attained. In making its arrangements, the Government is not influenced by the desire of fiscal advantage, nor by the fear of fiscal loss. If any measure or proceeding of this nature could be demonstrated to be capable of checking excessive consumption, the Government would not be deterred from introducing it by the prospect of diminution in the revenue. If such measure or proceeding should promise an enhancement of the revenue, the Government would refrain from adopting it if there were reason to fear that an excessive increase of consumption would be a concomitant result.

But it must not be forgotten that, in making its arrangements, the Government is never free from the questions as to

how far it is possible to check the consumption. It is not possible to stop the consumption altogether, nor even to attempt to check it in any very great degree without introducing a fresh class of evils. Nothing would be easier, in the first instance, than to do all that is recommended in the memorials, to shut up public distilleries, to close shops, to withhold licenses for production and vend, to pass prohibitory regulations. But all this would utterly fail to stop, or even check, manufacture. One main result would be that the manufacture, which is now licensed and controlled, would continue, though, illicit, and would be without any really practical control. While, on the other hand, new evils, namely inquisitorial proceedings on the part of Government officials, and persistent evasion on the part of the people—both circumstances directly conducing to demoralisation—would be introduced.

But His Honor with good reasons does not subscribe to the assumption that the use of intoxicating drinks and drugs is becoming general in the country. He observes:

"But I cannot discover, either from the evidence in the possession of Government, or from the enquiries I have been able to make while travelling about the country, that excessive consumption of drugs or spirits is prevalent among the people as a whole. The best calculation that I can obtain seems to shew that the people of these provinces do not drink more than a wine-glassful of spirits per head in a year. It is difficult to imagine how as a people they could drink a smaller quantity, unless they abstained altogether. Any supposition that they are becoming at all addicted to intemperance would be unjust to them. Taken in the mass, they must be regarded as a sober, quiet, and abstemious people. Neither has it been shown that crime is in any part of these provinces attributable to intemperance. A similar calculation as regards opium shews that the consumption does not exceed one ounce per annum for fourteen persons, which may be considered an extremely low average rate."

It is probable that a great part of the people never see spirits at all. Among the lower classes, the only class who enhance their consumption are the labourers who are congregated upon large works and industries belonging either to the State or to individuals or to corporations. With these particular classes there is not as yet any reason to apprehend excess, especially when the severity of their toil is borne in mind.

But I fear that to this generally favourable description there is one notable exception to be made, and that relates to several sections of the educated classes among the natives at the Presidency towns (Calcutta) and at other large centres of national life. With these sections (which I trust are limited sections), intemperance appears to be on the increase. This fact is derived not at all from foreign or hostile evidence, but from the testimony of the best informed among the natives themselves. Such a circumstance cannot but cause sorrow and concern to the Government, inasmuch as these are the very classes who are bound to us by many ties of common subjects of study, a common vehicle of thought and expression, and common examples of knowledge for imitation. Some measures in detail have been proposed for counteracting this most sad and unfortunate tendency; but I cannot hope that any such will prove efficacious unless the moral sense of these classes themselves shall restrain them from intemperance, unless the weight of public opinion shall help to enforce the necessary abstinence. I know that among the best educated sections of the native community many classes are still proof against this miserable temptation. Having regard to the intellectual industry which distinguishes the whole of these sections of the people, to the desire to excel in mental pursuits and to win their way in life which animates them all, I cannot but hope that those who have yielded or are inclined to yield to this temptation, will eschew their dreadful error before it is too late, and will return to the principles of that sobriety which is an honourable characteristic of their nation generally.

I apprehend that it is the contemplation of this intemperance among a limited section of the people under their immediate observation which has induced the memorialists to generalise (as I think) too much, and to fear that the extent of the evil is much wider than it really is.

His Honor has rightly diagnosed the disease; it is not so widespread as some seem to think, but it is deep-seated, wherever it has appeared. The Bengal Government has drafted a Bill, which we will discuss hereafter. In giving assent to this Bill the Government of India through the Financial Secretary makes the following remarks:

"His Excellency in Council has read with attention the memorials and other papers submitted with your letter, and cordially recognises the public spirit of those gentlemen who have addressed the Government on the excise administration of Bengal. The desire manifested for the discouragement of intemperance by every legitimate means has the cordial sympathy of the Governor General in Council. The danger, however, of attempting by measures of undue stringency to suppress the use of stimulants is clearly brought out by Mr. Money in his able Minute. They would without doubt lead to an increase of smuggling and illicit distillation; and thus to the greater evil of an unregulated traffic in drugs and spirits, which under the present system is at any rate subject to some measure of control. At the same time nothing should be done to place temptations in the way of the people that can possibly be avoided. The number of liquor shops should therefore be reduced to the utmost degree compatible with the reasonable requirements of the neighbourhood, and no new shops should anywhere be opened without strong evidence that on the above and standing they are really needed. These are the general principles which the Government of India desire everywhere to inculcate."

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor may rest assured of receiving the support of the Government of India in any measure that he may adopt for limiting the consumption of ganja; and indeed, if the use of the drug could be altogether suppressed without the fear of leading to its contraband use, such a course would be justified by it.

The broad principles thus laid down will prove efficacious, if they be carried out with judgment and firmness. On one point only we differ. We

hold that the control of the liquor shops ought to be made over to the Municipal Boards. The people would have then some voice in the regulation of these shops.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE HAVE much pleasure in publishing the names of the following subscribers in aid of Dr. Sircar's Science Association received last week:

Baboo Amritlal Chatterjee, Subordinate Judge	Ra.
Berhampore	200
Radhikaprassanna Mookerjee, Deputy Inspector of Schools, 24 Pargunnahs	200
Brojonath Mookerjee of Krishnagar	100
Kallycharan Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24 Pargunnahs...	200

WE ARE glad to learn that the students of Mr Sutcliffe have set on foot a movement for marking their gratitude to him with a suitable testimonial. We believe Mr. Sutcliffe came out to this country in 1847 as Professor of Mathematics in the old Hindu College, and subsequently became Principal of that College, and on the establishment of the Presidency College Principal of the last mentioned College. He also succeeded Mr. Scott Smith as Registrar of the Calcutta University. For eight and twenty years Mr. Sutcliffe has been connected with the first State College in India, and has thus been instrumental in training the minds of a whole generation of educated natives, who had the Hindu College or had or have had the Presidency College for their *alma mater*. Mr. Sutcliffe possesses in no ordinary degree the qualifications necessary for the successful government of such a large institution as the Presidency College. He has a rare tact, great decision of character, and wonderful influence upon the young mind. However turbulent the students might occasionally be, Mr. Sutcliffe's presence would act as a charm upon them, and they would tamely follow him. He takes a personal interest in the welfare of his students and is always ready to advance their prospects in life. The history of the first State College in India for the last quarter of a century, is a history of Mr. Sutcliffe's success. It is highly gratifying that his students have made this spontaneous move to testify their respect and gratitude to him.

It is telegraphed that the Secretary of State intends reforming the Indian Civil Service Examination and raising the age limit to 25 years for Europeans. This is a very necessary reform. The present limit of 21 years shuts out the University graduates. The first limit was 23. But we cannot understand why Indian candidates should be excluded from the benefit of this change. The case of the latter is still more strong than that of the English candidates. They have to expatriate themselves from their country in order to pass the examination, and in their case the age limit ought in all fairness to be extended.

WE OBSERVE that the Judges of the Small Cause Court have issued the following rules for the admission of Mooktears into that Court:

"From and after this date and until further orders, any person possessing a Certificate enabling him to act in the High Court or in any Court Subordinate to the High Court as a 'Mookhtear', may on his application, accompanied by such Certificate be enrolled and permitted to act in the Calcutta Court of Small Causes as an 'agent approved by the Court' within the meaning of the present Rules 49 and 50."

These rules involve gross injustice to the old Mooktears. We have always been of opinion that the Mooktears as a body are a bad set, and the attempt to weed them out was laudable. But the honest ought not to be confounded with the dishonest. There are good men among them, who have been practising in the Court for more than 20 years, and who have borne a good character. To tell these men, who know only the law and practice of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, to pass the examination prescribed for Mooktears for Mofussil Courts, is to take the bread out of their mouths. Formerly there was no rule requiring the Pleaders and Mooktears of the Calcutta Small Cause Court to pass an examination, and as the unpassed Pleaders are not touched, we do not see with what justice the unpassed Mooktears are turned out, if they

otherwise answer the required qualifications. It would be barely just if the Court would make a selection of honest and good men from the general body of Mooktears.

THE EFFICIENCY of the new system of rural sub-registry offices depends upon the personnel in charge of the offices, but good men cannot be had, if fair remuneration be not offered to them. According to the present system the sub-registrars are remunerated by fees, but unless the registry unions are sufficiently extensive, they do not prove remunerative. A complaint comes to us to the effect that the sub-registrar of Naihatti having represented that his office does not pay, it is proposed to detach the villages comprised in Thana Habra from the sub-registry office of Baraset, and annex them to Naihatti, and open a new office at Rajibpore comprising the two Thannas of Naihatti and Habra. The result is that the people of both the Thannas are complaining, inasmuch as the new office would be located in an out-of-the-way place, without a road or means of communication, for the most part under water, during the rains, and totally ill-suited for the head-quarters of a public office. A new office was opened at Naihatti because the people found it inconvenient to come down by rail to Dum-dum and thence travel up by ghari on an unmetalled road to Baraset. They will now have to swim across the beel Buruti and trudge through the mire to Rajibpur on a wet day. On the other hand the detachment of thanna Habra from the Baraset office will reduce the income of that office, and may lead to the retirement of the excellent officer now in charge. We believe it is true that the registry office at Naihatti does not pay, but the convenience of the people of both the sub-divisions would be promoted, if the sub-registrar of Baraset were required to hold office at Naihatti twice in the week.

THE EMEUTE at Baroda was after all not such a contemptible affair as we were led to believe. It would have taken a serious turn if the Resident had not acted energetically, and if Coombai, Mulhar Rao's daughter, had not acted with firmness. Some of the old Maharatta officials, to whose evil counsels Mulhar Rao owed his fall, were pursued with fiery vengeance. One of them was Raoji Vithal, who had held the post of Suba. According to the *Englishman's* account

"He was hunted like a fox from cover to cover, until at last he found a refuge, of all places, in the *wadan*, or walled residence, of Kumabai Sahib, the daughter of Mulhar Rao. But any port in a storm, and Raoji Vithal was delighted to get inside the gate of the *wadan*, the lintel of which is said to have been pierced by a javelin from the crowd, which pressed him hard. Fortunately for him, Kumabai's guards did their duty in closing the gate promptly, and he drew breath in the court-yard, but the mob clamoured loudly without and seemed disposed to storm the half-fortified residence, because by this time the infuriated people had become possessed with the notion that it was the hated Gajannand they had caught at last. One of Kumabai's *kurhans* recognised Raoji, who humbly petitioned for protection. The guards were not all inclined to stand a siege on behalf of Raoji, whom, as one of Gajannand's set, they despised and hated. The tumult had aroused the Bai Sahib—it is said from her siesta—but being a decidedly energetic and capable lady, she soon realised the situation, and took pity on the trembling official, and he was taken into the house. Though somewhat alarmed by the surging mob outside, the Bai Sahib was determined to shield the fugitive, and directed that the people should be ordered, in her name, to disperse. For some time they refused, and indulged in shouts and very uncomplimentary references to the determined lady-commandant. She disregarded these taunts, and we believe the crowd had nearly melted away, when towards evening a cavalry officer with a party, of lancers came to raise the noisy siege."

Damodar Punt's house was also sacked. The Baroda correspondent of the *Times of India* says:

"When the excitement was at its height the mob visited the residence of Damoodur Punt, and from the excesses there committed there can be little doubt that had the Punt been 'at home' he would have been torn limb from limb. Damoodur, however, is an intimate acquaintance of Gajannand just now, and lives with him, and if Bhau Poonakar will only join them there will be as nice a trio as can well be imagined. To return, however, to the Punt's residence. The mob grossly insulted his wife, took her jewels from her, looted the place, stripped Mrs. Punt naked, and turned her into the street."

Pity that the wretch did not meet his deserts. The troops, however, immediately restored order. It appears from a telegram that on the 6th instant three hundred and sixty of the Gaekwar's

irregular troops were disarmed by Colonel Nuttall. After being disarmed, a number of them were arrested for having taken part in the late riot. The Arabs also are to be disarmed.

DISSATISFACTION seems to prevail among a section of the Maharathas on the ground that the widow of Gunput Rao, the eldest brother of Malhar Rao, has been superseded in the adoption of an heir to the throne. According to Hindu law she had priority of claim. It is said that she has petitioned the Governor General, and that failing here she will appeal to England. A later telegram contains the following intelligence: "It is rumoured that the selection of the new Gaekwar has been postponed for three months, and that several native gentlemen are going to England to plead for Malhar Rao's restoration."

WE CONGRATULATE Babu Bhoobun Mohun Sircar on the success which has attended the agitation, which he has been chiefly instrumental in drawing public attention to the growing evil of converting dispensaries in the town and the neighbourhood into clandestine liquor shops. The Bengal Government takes the following notice of the subject in its letter on Mr. Money's report on abkari administration:

"The Lieutenant-Governor has taken note of the remark of the Member-in-charge, that the sale at dispensaries of alcoholic liquor under the guise of medicine is an evil which requires to be checked by stringent regulations. Sir Richard Temple fears that there is good ground for the complaints made regarding the existence of this abuse, and that the facilities for obtaining intoxicating drinks in this manner serve to throw temptation in the way of many who would be restrained by a feeling of self-respect from resorting to shops which are avowedly open for the sale of liquors. The repression of this traffic is a matter of considerable difficulty; but the most effectual means appears to be the enactment of a provision for keeping a register of all such sales, in which the names and addresses of the purchasers shall be entered. Sections providing for this have accordingly been introduced in the draft Bill submitted to the Government of India."

We trust that the new Abkari Bill will provide an effectual remedy for this evil.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS the Prince of Wales, if he visits India, will not take the precedence of His Excellency the Viceroy in rank. This is the explanation which Mr. Disraeli offered in Parliament on the subject:

"Mr. Hankey asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether it was intended by the Government, in the event of the Prince of Wales visiting India, to propose to Parliament to make such provision as would enable his Royal Highness to discharge such duties as might be considered befitting his position as the representative of Her Majesty with becoming dignity."

Mr. Disraeli.—The hon. Gentleman, in his hypothetical question, makes an inquiry of a somewhat ambiguous nature. The hon. gentleman inquires "whether it is intended by the Government, in the event of the Prince of Wales visiting India, to propose to Parliament to make such provision as will enable his Royal Highness to discharge such duties as may be considered befitting his position as the representative of Her Majesty." I apprehend that in the event of his Royal Highness visiting India he would not visit it as the representative of Her Majesty. The Viceroy would continue to fulfil the duties which are attendant on that office. But I may say generally to the hon. gentleman that in the event of the Prince of Wales visiting India, and in the event of Her Majesty's Government having to make any public communication on the subject, the House of Commons will be the first body in the country to which it will be made. (Cheers and a laugh.)

This is as it should be.

THE FOLLOWING conversations took place in the House of Commons on the subject of rewards for famine services:

"Mr. Anderson asked the First Lord of the Treasury if it was intended to bestow any honors or rewards on any of those who fought the Indian Famine for us, or if there was any regulation limiting such honors and rewards to strictly military services."

Mr. Disraeli.—The hon. gentleman apparently assumes in his question that the honors and rewards conferred by Her Majesty are for strictly military services; but that is not the case. On the contrary, many honors and rewards have been conferred, even recently, by Her Majesty for services strictly civil. There were, I think, three Knight Commanderships of the Bath conferred for civil services even in this year, besides several Commanderships and Knight Commanderships of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and many Knightships for civil services, or for distinction in science and otherwise, by which public respect is gained. There have also been some hereditary honors conferred for civil services, and therefore I don't think the hon. gentleman right in his assumption that the honors and rewards conferred by Her Majesty for military services. (Hear, hear.) With respect to the great labors of those who successfully contended with the Indian Famine, I may say it is but very recently that their success has been attained. On all these occasions—I am not now speaking with reference peculiarly to the labours connected with the Indian

Famine, but to labours of this character when the conduct is performed in a distant country and the exertions have been shared by many individuals—it is of great importance that the utmost care should be taken that no mistake is committed (hear, hear)—that you should not, for instance, reward the wrong people (a laugh)—a mistake that is sometimes made and not easily remedied. ("Hear," and a laugh.) I may also inform the hon. gentleman that all honors, except hereditary honors, with very slight exceptions, are limited in their number. It is not sufficiently known by the country, and, if I might presume to say so, even by the Houses of Parliament, that there is no order of Knighthood which is not limited in its numbers, and vacancies may not occur for some time. The hon. gentleman must therefore see a great many considerations must be taken into account before the distribution of honors for services of this kind; and I would say humbly to the hon. gentleman that, considering the difficulties attendant on the satisfactory distribution of public rewards, it is best on the whole to leave the exercise of the prerogative to Her Majesty and her responsible advisers. (Cheers and a laugh.)

So famine rewards are deferred!

A NEW Bill has been introduced into the House of Lords by Lord Salisbury called "an Act for consolidating and amending the law relating to legislation in India." Its provisions are thus summarised: The Bill repeals certain portions of the Acts relating to the legislative powers of the Governor General of India in Council and the Governors in Council of the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and substitute some new regulations. It defines the extent of the legislative power of the various Legislatures, and provides for the disallowance by Her Majesty of laws made by them. It enacts that the validity of Acts of the Governor General in Council is not to be questioned by courts of justice, and that any apparent inconsistency between such Acts and certain Acts of Parliament is to be reported to the Governor General of India in Council, who, if he does not see fit to repeal the law, is to send the report to the Secretary of State for India, to be laid before the Queen, who may refer the matter to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, and may, if they so advise Her Majesty, disallow the law. A court however, in the event of a conflict between such a law and an Act of Parliament, is to regulate its proceedings according to the latter. In moving the Bill Lord Salisbury remarked:

"Section 22 of the Indian Councils Act restrained Governor-General from making laws which should repeal or 'in any way affect' any provisions of Acts therein specified. Obviously, the intention of the framers of that Act was that no laws inconsistent with the Acts in question should be passed; and from this mistake a great deal of inconvenience had arisen. On one occasion the Legislature of Bombay gave powers to a Small Cause Court to deal with offences in the streets, and this was held to affect the jurisdiction which had been previously given to a High Court. In this state of things inconvenient decisions had been given, and it was part of the object of the Bill to prevent such decisions being given in future. A more important matter was that by the India Council Act the Governor-General in Council was restricted from making any law which might affect any part of the unwritten law or constitution of Great Britain and Ireland whereon the allegiance of any person might depend. In the case of the Wahabee conspirators Mr. Chisholm Anstey had argued that the unwritten law of Great Britain was violated by any legislation affecting the social contract, and on that ground he imagined the authority of the Government of India to make the law under which the conspirators were arrested, and called on the people to resist it. The Act was a useful one, and some of them might have wished during the discussion of last night it had been in operation in some of our colonies. The Judges listened with regret to Mr. Anstey's argument, but admitted that there was some excuse for it in the ambiguity of the Act which it was the object of this Bill to remove. If acts were to be declared *ultra vires* it should be done by a Court which was really supreme; and he proposed that no Court in India should have power to say that the acts of the Legislative Council were invalid; but if the Supreme Court of the Presidencies were of opinion such was the case, they might by three of their members represent the facts to the Government of India, who should transmit them to the Secretary of State, by whom they should be submitted to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In re-enacting Her Majesty's power of disallowance he proposed to extend it to laws or parts of laws, to avoid the inconvenience of not being able to consider a part of a whole code. He further proposed by the Bill to remove any doubts as to the validity of certain regulations made by the Bombay and Madras Councils before full statutory power had been given them."

We wish the present opportunity were taken to reform the constitution of the present Legislative Councils.

THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The *Prochakur* angers ill from the reluctance of England in joining the International Congress to be held at St. Petersburg. England desires to stand aloof from the vortex of continental politics and from continental schemes of warfare. But the objects of the Congress are of a very peaceful nature—perhaps its aim is to promote peace and avert the horrors of war. It is therefore unaccountable why England is

thus anxious to keep aloof. It will not only raise misgivings in the mind of Russia, but perhaps give cause for offence. It is very desirable to see England subsist on terms of amity with Russia.

The *Poornachandrodoy* observes that Europeans in India court Asiatic indolence and luxury, some amongst them love ease so much that they cannot bear the fatigue of moving from one place to another. He wishes that Heaven may avert from them the fate of the ancient Romans.

The *Procharika* says that under a new regulation framed by Dr. French, Civil Surgeon of Burdwan indirectly for the good of the people the dispensaries in many villages have been closed. The rule is that if the people can raise by subscription a sufficient sum for paying the salary of a compounder and hospital servants and the cost of hospital fittings, the Government will pay for an Assistant Surgeon and supply medicines—the money so raised to be for six months and deposited in advance in the Collectorate. The people are unwilling to bear the cost of dispensary and while they prefer to die from malarious fever they pay most cheerfully for the *Barwari Pujas* which are every where celebrated with great eclat.

The same paper in an article on the morals of the day observes, that the natives of this country in their endeavours to imitate the Europeans have been able to copy only their worst habits and practices regardless of their ill adaptation. Instead of endeavouring to acquire the European habits of industry vigor and perseverance, they aim at being European in dress and drink. The Europeans though habitually just are by temper hot and hasty. The Babus only rival them in their temper. Speaking of the Government system of education the Editor says the Government is afraid of meddling with the religion of a heterogeneous people under its rule, but is it not against the principles of all Government to train up a body of reckless unbelievers who habitually scoff at all things sacred.

The *Dacca Prokash* dissents from the view taken by Government that the increased number of criminals yearly brought to trial shew a superior efficiency of the Police in tracing and detecting criminals who hitherto escaped with impunity. The Editor thinks that the yearly increase of crime shews that the Police are sadly deficient in the preventive part of their duty. The truth however, is that increase of crime is a necessary consequence of the selfish and grasping policy of Government by which the number of the needy and starving are swelling. High caste people like the Brahmins and Knyats seldom or never committed crimes but in the last report they appear in flourishing numbers. Destitution and want compel people to commit crimes from which they before recoiled with horror.

We welcome the appearance of a new journal from the misnamed, benighted district of Mymensing. It is called "Soorhid" and is published at Mooktagacha. The Editor threatens to be a terror to that self-willed despotism which afflicts people in the mofassil from time to time, but will scrupulously avoid scandal.

Referring to the discussion in the English papers about the mischievous tendency of the native political associations, the *Shomprokash* observes that under Mahomedan rules the Hindus were allowed to enjoy their social and religious and municipal institutions without let or hindrance, but under the British rule not a vestige of political independence exists, the system of Panchayats has vanished and there is obstruction to the unfettered observance of religious institutions and usages. The prohibitory orders about processions with music, the restriction to the procession with images, occasional orders against pilgrimage to the Ganges and against the rath festival are examples in point. (It is said that municipal bodies were created to teach natives self-government, but in truth there is not the least independence allowed to the natives in these municipal institutions. The native political associations have been set up with a view in some measure to mitigate the evils under which we labor and they have proved an eye sore to the Europeans.)

The *Sachchar* advises the public to petition government for the amendment of the Limitation Act. The clauses which allow time spent by a creditor in concealment in some province of British India or in abscondment in England to be included with the time of limitation are operating most injuriously to the interests of trade and commerce. People have now so much distrust of each other that eventually all loan transactions will come to a stand still.

The *Bharat Sancharik* thinks that the advent of the Prince of Wales to India will be an event of special importance. It will go far towards allaying the disturbed state of mind under which the princes and chiefs of India now suffer. Though the sceptre of India has passed from the East India Company to the crown things remain nearly as before. They have yet had no reason to make a correct idea of the change. They know not who is their chief and who protects them. The Indians are a peculiarly King-loving people but they know not upon whom to bestow their loyalty.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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" Luckheekant Bose, Monguldye.....	5	0	0	
" Buddinath Chowdry, Kanigunge.....	5	0	0	
" Eshanchunder Mojomdar, Bharenga.....	10	0	0	
" Saratchunder Das, Cuttack.....	10	0	0	
" Soodamchandra Patriack, Dehree.....	10	0	0	
" Kallykishore Mookerjee, Monghyr.....	2	14	0	
" Seetanath Chatterjee, Parbuttypore.....	23	14	0	
" Nobinunder Mitter, Hazepore.....	13	4	0	
" Gopalchander Das, Parbuttypore.....	10	0	0	

ERRATA.

For Mohamed Sahyck, Gorruckpore, 13 read...	13	4	0
" Baboo Hurrishchander Roy, read Baboo Hurrishchander Chatterjee, Khooldah....	5	5	0

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—May 5, 1875.

GENERAL.—The 24th April 1875.—Mr. William Macpherson, Acting Judge of Cuttack, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the 1st grade of Judges.

Mr. Loftus Richard Tottenham, Acting Judge of Midnapore, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the 1st grade of Judges.

The 27th April 1875.—Baboo Romesh Chunder Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. Henry Gillon, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, in charge of the Narail Division of Jessore, is posted to the Sudder Station of that district.

Baboo Umachurn Gangooly, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is appointed to have charge of the Narail Division of that district.

Baboo Otoo Chunder Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Balasore, on leave, is posted to the Sudder Station of Jessore.

Mr. Arthur Rattray, Extra Assistant Commissioner, employed on special duty in the sub-division of Sewan, in Sarun, is transferred to Julpigoree.

Baboo Poorna Chunder Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Durbhangah, is transferred to the Sudder Station of Maldah.

Baboo Hury Churn Ghose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Malda, is transferred to the Sudder Station of Durbhangah.

Mr. Phillip Nolan, Acting Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Serajung Division of the Pubna district, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he may be relieved by Mr. E. M. Reilly Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector.

Mr. Edward Maxwell Reilly, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, is appointed to have temporary charge of the Serajung, Division of the Pubna district.

The 28th April 1875.—Subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State for India, Mr. Charles Miller, Magistrate of Police, Calcutta, is allowed leave for fifteen months, under Section 10 (a) of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he made over charge of his office, in lieu of the fifteen months' leave under Section 3, Supplement F of the Code, granted to him under orders of the 13th February 1875.

The 29th April 1875.—The following officers reported their departure from India on furlough by the S. S. Delhi on the 19th April 1875:—

Mr. A. C. Mangles, Magistrate and Collector of Patna.
Mr. T. B. Lane, Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

The 30th April 1875.—Baboo Shoshee Sikur Dutt, Acting Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade in Moorsheadabad, is confirmed in that appointment vice Baboo Koylash Chunder Bose.

The 1st May 1875.—In modification of the orders of the 16th April 1875, published in the Calcutta Gazette of the 21st idem, Baboo Radha Syam Sinha, Sub-Deputy Collector, Serampore, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 22nd April 1875.

Mr. J. S. Drummond, C. S., reported his departure from India, on furlough, on the 26th April 1875.

The 4th May 1875.—Baboo Ram Churn Lal, Sub-Deputy Collector, Gya, is allowed leave for one month, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Nolin Chunder Roy, Sub-Deputy Collector, Serajung, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 9, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code.

Mr. Charles Walter Bolton, Assistant Magistrate and Collector of Ramporehaut, is allowed leave for fifteen days, to enable him to present himself at the High Proficiency Examination in Bengali to be held in Calcutta in July next.

LEGISLATIVE.—The 4th May 1875.—Mr. Frederick Clarke, Barrister-at-law, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Legislative Department, vice Mr. C. C. Macrae, resigned.

POLICE.—The 25th April 1875.—Mr. John Briscoe Birch, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Pubna, is allowed leave for three months, under Section 21, Chapter VI of the Civil Leave Code.

The 28th April 1875.—Major George McHardy Bowie is appointed to be District Superintendent of Police, Patna, but to continue to act as Inspector-General of Jails, until further orders.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Robert Gordon, District Superintendent of Police, just returned from furlough, is appointed to be District Superintendent of Police, Nuddea.

The 29th April 1875.—Mr. Thomas Gwyther Charles, Assistant Superintendent of Police, in charge of the Nuddea Police, is appointed to have charge of the police in Mymensingh.

Mr. Henry Maxwell Reilly, District Superintendent of Police, Mymensingh, is appointed to act as district Superintendent of Police, Midnapore, during the absence, on duty, of Mr. C. P. L. Macaulay, or until further orders.

Mr. Henry William John Bambar, Officiating District Superintendent of Police, Midnapore, is appointed to officiate as Superintendent of Police, Furedpore, from the date on which he may relieve Mr. W. L. Owen.

The 24th April 1875.—Moulvi Syed Ali Quilly Khan, Sub-Registrar of Monghyr, who was vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the Third Class under orders of the 18th May 1874, during the exigencies of the late famine, will cease to exercise these powers from this date.

Baboo Ohboy Churn Dey, Subordinate Judge of Rungpore, is allowed leave for six months, under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code.

Baboo Kali Dass Dutt, Subordinate Judge of Dinapore and Rungpore, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of Rungpore during the absence of Baboo Ohboy Churn Dey, or until further orders.

Moonshee Abul Munsoor, Moonsif of Bhotmaree, in Rungpore, is appointed to act temporarily as Subordinate Judge of Dinapore.

The 26th April 1875.—The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to accept the resignation tendered by Mr. Michael Henderson of his appointments as a Justice of the Peace and Honorary Magistrate for the town of Calcutta.

Advertisements.

THE ORIENTAL MUSIC SCHOOL.

The undersigned beg to inform the Native Public of Calcutta that they will soon open a Music School at the premises of the Shambazar Aided Vernacular School, No. 126 Shambazar Street, on the 4th Joista 1282 B. S Monday the 17th May 1875, when the practice of singing and of playing Pakhawaj, Setara, Esraj Harmonium and Flute will be taught in truly correct and progressive principles. All Music shall be taught from a very simple and expressive Musical notation by the adoption of which the study of Hindu Music in all its Branches has been wonderfully facilitated. Lessons and lectures will be given at night from 7 to 9 p. m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of the Week. Both Indian and European systems of Music will be taught on the Harmonium and Flute. None but students of certified character of an age not under 15 years shall be admitted. The rate of schooling fee is one Rupee per month in advance for each branch, and every student admitted will have to deposit one month's schooling fee which shall be returned to him when withdrawing from the school. The undersigned earnestly solicit the patronage of the encouraging public in their undertaking.

Calcutta, } GOPAUL CHANDER CHAKRAVARTI.
7th May 1875. } KRISHNA DHANA BANERJEE.
(107)

সে কাল আর একাল।

জীরাঙ্গনারায়ণ বসু প্রণীত অত্যন্ত কোতূকাবহ অথচ উপদেশ গর্ভ প্রসূত। আদি ব্রাহ্ম সমাজে, সংস্কৃত যন্ত্রের পুস্তকালয়ে এবং পটলডাঙ্গা কানিং লাইব্রেরীতে প্রাপ্য। মূল্য ১০ আনা। ডাকস্বত্ব ১০ আনা। (108)

Fifty Rupees Reward.

THE above reward will be given to any body who will be able to supply the undersigned with satisfactory news of Doorga Doss Chatterjee, a student of the 2nd Class of the Oriental Seminary, who left home on Thursday, the 29th April, in a fit of anger, and has not been heard of. Doorga Doss is about 18 years old and his face bears small pox marks.

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NOTICE.

The Public is informed that Machooabazar Street is closed from Amhorst Street to Circular Road for repairs.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
(110) Secretary to the Justices of the Peace.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Audit and Examination of the Municipal Accounts for the year 1874 will be made under Section 34 of Act 6 (B. C.) of 1863 at the Office of the Justices from and after 25th May 1875 and that a Copy of the Accounts to be audited and Examined will be open during office hours for the inspection of all parties interested from and after the 17th idem.

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tables of the Public Library and Literary Institute. To our
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Hindoo Patriot. (5)

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SUPPLEMENT TO THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

CALCUTTA :—MONDAY, MAY 10, 1875.

BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Twenty-third Annual General Meeting of the British Indian Association was held at the Hall of the Association on Friday, the 30th April 1875.

Raja Narendra Krishna, Vice-President, in the chair.
The Vice-President said: Gentlemen, I am sorry that illness prevents our worthy President being present to-day, but I have the honor to read to you the address which he had intended to deliver on the present occasion. It runs as follows:

"The annual report of the Committee, which will be just now read to you, will acquaint you with a summary of their operations during the past year, and I will not therefore repeat what has been already stated in the report. I will, however, take this opportunity to direct your attention to one important subject, perhaps the most important that has come before the public for some time past, I mean the Bill introduced in the Bengal Council to provide for the summary settlement of rent disputes.

"The attitude, which the tenantry have assumed towards the landlords in some of the Eastern Districts since 1873, as has been justly remarked by the hon'ble mover of the Bill, has become a public scandal, and we can not be too thankful to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for the solicitude he has evinced from the first in this matter, and the promptitude with which he has introduced this measure into the Council, with a view to put an end to it. I have read with attention the criticisms passed upon this Bill, both in and out of the Council; and I must confess that, having regard to the primary object of the Bill, viz., the summary settlement of rent disputes, many of the suggestions made, though important in themselves, and entitled to every consideration, would, if adopted, defeat the very object for which the measure has been introduced. I need not tell you with what impunity the ryots can ruin a zemindar if they combine and withhold payment of rent; it is true that such combination is not new, but then the zemindars were armed with adequate powers to put down such combination. I allude to the powers conferred by Regulation VII. of 1799 and other Regulations. The law is now changed, and the Courts, even if favorably disposed, are quite powerless to counteract such combination. I admit that the proposed measure gives extraordinary powers to revenue officers, but it should be borne in mind that the powers should be exercised under exceptional circumstances, that is, where agrarian troubles would break out, and the ordinary machinery of the law would necessarily come to a dead-lock, and under such exceptional circumstances, exceptional remedies must be applied. Hence it is, I do not think it desirable to hamper the Collector with elaborate rules, and with appeals from his decisions. I admit that much will depend upon the personnel for the efficient administration of the proposed law. A Collector with a familiar knowledge of the zemindari system would much more easily and successfully settle these disputes under a summary system than the Civil Courts under an elaborate procedure, but the question was whether the present revenue officers possessed that intimate fiscal knowledge which their predecessors did. Formerly the Collector, having had the direct management of khas mehals and the trial of rent suits, had the opportunity of acquiring a familiar knowledge of the zemindari system, but he had not that opportunity now. Such being the case I would not give finality to the Collector's decisions as regards rate of rent for ten years as proposed in the Bill. I would limit it to such period as might be deemed necessary for the purpose of securing tranquillity, giving liberty to the parties concerned to move the Civil Court, either to modify or reverse the decision of the Collector under the general provisions of the rent law; and in that view I would suggest that the decisions of the Collector under the new Act should have a currency for two years, within which it shall be lawful for both zemindar and ryot to apply to the Civil Court for revision of those decisions. If no civil suit be instituted, the Collector's decision should then have a currency for ten years. I entirely agree, as was remarked in Council, that the present unsatisfactory state of things is wholly due to the unsatisfactory state of the rent-law, which is very indefinite, and which, in fact, invites dispute; and I would therefore suggest that the necessary changes should be introduced in the general rent-law,—changes which should go hand in hand with the present Bill, and without which it would be impossible for a Civil Court to do justice in revising the decisions of the Collector as I have suggested. There are other important measures introduced in the Bengal Council, which have already engaged the attention of your Committee; and, in connection with this subject, allow me to congratulate you upon the appointment of our Assistant Secretary to that Council at such an important epoch in the history of local legislation, for I believe you will agree with me when I say that it would have been difficult to find a better man to represent the views and interests of the native community, particularly in reference to these momentous questions, than our friend.

"I cannot close without adverting to the successful financial policy of His Excellency the Viceroy in respect of the late Famine. Although above six crores were expended in this work of humanity, not a pie of additional taxation has been imposed upon the country. This is a great fact, and justly calls forth the liveliest sense of admiration and gratitude.

"In conclusion, I have to announce to you that my friend Raja Ramanath Tagore, who was invited by His Excellency the Viceroy to join His Excellency's Legislative Council two years ago, having completed his term of service, is now again in a position to take an active part in the deliberations of this Association. During his absence, it fell to my lot to fill his place here, and I thank you sincerely and cordially for the continued confidence you reposed in me. It is now my agreeable duty to vacate the chair which you had kindly entrusted to me, and with your leave I welcome him back to the seat

which he had before so worthily filled. I now ask you to elect him.

The Hon'ble DURGACHARAN LAHA proposed—
"That the best thanks of this meeting be tendered to the retiring President for the zeal, ability, and industry with which he conducted his duties, and the valuable services he has rendered in different capacities to this Association ever since its establishment."

BABU JADULAL MULLICK seconded the resolution which was put and carried.

BABU JOYKISSEN MOKHARJEE proposed that "this meeting heartily welcomes back Raja Ramanath Tagore, C. S. I., as an active worker in the interests of this Association, and elects him as its President."

BABU RAJENDRALALA MITRA in seconding the motion said: I have very little to say in support of the resolution; but were I to speak at greater length than I intend, I should even then hardly convey an adequate sense of our thanks to Raja Ramanath Tagore for his services to this Association. He has been connected with it from its foundation, and has done everything in his power to promote its interests. No one connected with it has been more earnest, more zealous, or more indefatigable than he; and if any man deserves our highest consideration and respect, it is Raja Ramanath Tagore. It is with the greatest pleasure, therefore, that we join in welcoming him back as the head of this Association.

The resolution being carried, the Raja took the chair.

The PRESIDENT said: Gentlemen, I am much obliged to you for the honor you have conferred on me by re-electing me President of this Association, for which I trust you will accept my best thanks. I must not omit this opportunity to express my grateful thanks to Babu Digambar Mitra for the ability with which he conducted the business of this Association whilst I was absent owing to unavoidable circumstances. I may remark that the best feature in Babu Digambar Mitra's administration was that he kept the Association in full vigour.

The Assistant Secretary then read the annual report of the Committee, which will be published separately.

BABU SRINATH CHANDRA proposed that the report just read and the accounts be received and passed.

The motion was seconded by Babu Joygopal Sen, and carried.

The Hon'ble KRISTODAS PAL said that he should mention that of Rs. 4,000 invested in Government securities, Rs. 1,000 was a spontaneous gift to the Association from Maharaja Holkar.

On the motion of KUMAR PURNOCHANDRA SINGH, the following office-bearers were appointed for the ensuing year:

Raja Ramanath Tagore, Bahadur, C. S. I., President; Babu Degambar Mitter, Raja Narendra Krishna, Bahadur, Raja Suttayanand Ghosal, Bahadur, Vice-Presidents; Members of the Committee, Raja Rajendranarain Deb, Bahadur, Babu Joykissen Mookerjee, Babu Peary Chand Mitter, Babu Rajendralala Mitra, Hon'ble Doorga Churn Law, Babu Debender Mullick, Raja Hurrendra Krishna, Bahadur, Babu Ramanath Law, Babu Judulal Mullick, Raja Premothonath, Roy Bahadur, Moonshee Ameer Ali, Khan Bahadur, Babu Herilal Seal, Babu Chunder Kant Mookerjee, Babu Krishna Mohan Mullick, Babu Kaly Mohun Dass, Babu Greesh Chunder Ghose, Kumar Greesh Chunder Singh, Bahadur, Babu Sobul Dass Mullick, Babu Peary Mohun Mookerjee, Babu Dwarkanath Mullick, Meer Mohamed Ali, Rajah Jotendro Mohun Tagore, Bahadur, Honorary Secretary, Babu Kristodas Pal, Assistant Secretary.

On the motion of BABU JOYKISSEN MOKHARJEE, seconded by Babu Rajendralala Mitra, the name of Raja Narendra Krishna Bahadur was added to the list of Vice-Presidents.

Mr. HIRJIBHAI MANOCKJI RUSTOMJI was proposed a member of the Association on the motion of Babu Sobuldas Mullick, seconded by Babu Joykissen Mukharji.

The following resolution was also put and carried—"That as Mr. W. S. Atkinson, Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, is about to proceed to Europe on leave, and may not return to this country, the Committee of the British Indian Association, who have always felt deeply interested in the operations of the Educational Department, desire to put on record their sense of the services rendered by him."

"That although it did not fall to the lot of Mr. Atkinson to inaugurate the great Education Despatch of 1854, still it was his duty to mature and carry out, under orders of Government, the measures which were adopted with a view to give effect to the instructions contained in that despatch, and the success which has attended those measures is the best testimony to the intelligence, ability, and zeal with which he has performed his duties.

"That the most important incident connected with the administration of the Education Department, under Mr. Atkinson, was the hostile attitude assumed for a time in influential quarters on the subject of high English education. A long and somewhat excited controversy raged on this momentous question, in which Mr. Atkinson, as required by his position, took a prominent part; and it is not too much to say that, were it not for his firm, intelligent, and zealous advocacy, sometimes combating with the Government of India, and sometimes with his immediate chief, the head of the local Government, the interests of liberal education in Bengal would have been seriously jeopardized. The facts and arguments, which he advanced with singular ability and vigour, showed that high English education was essential to the true and solid progress of the nation, that it was the best auxiliary to mass education, to which he was duly alive, and that it alone would pave the way to Western civilization in the East, which it was the mission of the British Government in India to introduce and foster. Mr. Atkinson has had the satisfaction of seeing the cause for which he fought under grave difficulties and disadvantages, incidental to his subordinate position, in reference to the high authorities arrayed against it,

carried to a successful issue, and he now leaves the department, the Committee hope for a time only, with the consciousness that that cause is now perfectly safe in the hands of the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The people of Bengal are deeply sensible of the obligation under which they have been laid by Mr. Atkinson by his zealous advocacy of the cause of liberal education, and the Committee feel that they are discharging a solemn public duty by giving expression to the general feeling of their countrymen."

The annual meeting then came to a close.

Raja Narendra Krishna said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, The new Municipal Bill introduced into the Bengal Council is a very important measure and is deserving of our most serious attention. It was urgently called for by the present somewhat unsettled and complicated state of the Municipal law of Calcutta. It aims chiefly at consolidation and simplification of the existing law on the subject, the provisions of which are scattered over some dozen Acts of the Bengal Council. We should hail such a measure as furnishing an opportunity for the discussion of the whole question of Municipal reform. Admitting that the general population of the town are not yet prepared for a thorough elective system, I cannot help urging that the time has already arrived when the citizens of Calcutta should be allowed to exercise greater control over the affairs of the Municipality, and this would be a great inducement to them to take a deep interest in the management of such affairs which must lead to many important results. The other points in connection with the Bill deserve our careful consideration—the provisions about the water-supply of the town, the assessment of houses, and the improvement of the *busties*. The new Bill does not propose to keep up the supply of water at a high pressure throughout the day, as was enjoined by the old law, advantages of a constant water-supply were too great to be lightly set aside in favor of the intermittent supply, as there was no certainty that the wastage of water would be greater under the former than under the latter system. I trust, however, that as the water-rate is intended to be raised, the convenience of the public would not be sacrificed. With regard to the question of house assessment, I think that if the house-rate be assessed upon a fixed principle, there would then be no necessity for frequent attempts to increase or alter the same. The appeals against the assessment should invariably be heard and determined by such Justices who are not the executive officers of the Municipality. The section in the Bill about the improvement of the *busties* is somewhat unfair and arbitrary; it empowers the Justices to pull down any huts without paying compensation to the poor owners, and it also empowers them to call upon the owners of *bastis* to make improvements, the costs of which would in many cases exceed the value of such property. This would be tantamount to making them reluctantly part with their property, and I need not point out that it would be felt as a great hardship by such people, who are dependent for their livelihood upon the income derived from such lands. The necessary improvements should, however, be carried out in a manner which may be least oppressive to the owners. I shall now advert to the financial policy of Lord Northbrook. His lordship's thorough business habits, and his desire to make himself master of details, have infused a new spirit and vigour into the various branches of his administration. By maintaining a close scrutiny into the expenditure of this country, he has been eminently successful in his financial policy. Economy has been enforced wherever it could be done, without trenching upon the efficiency of any department. His lordship has abolished the vexatious income-tax in deference to public opinion, and no new tax has been imposed in its place, although the last year has caused a heavy drain upon Indian Exchequer. The famine crisis was safely tided over, and the people have no cause to regret the expenditure of immense sums of money to save their distressed countrymen. Sir Richard Temple's administration of Bengal is giving general satisfaction. His Honor has, from the very beginning of his rule, manifested a warm sympathy for all classes of the people placed under his sway, and I have no doubt that he has at heart equally the welfare of the rich and poor. The manner in which he has hitherto discharged his functions clearly shows how very alive he is to the great responsibility attached to his office; his earnest desire to make himself acquainted with the wants, wishes, and sentiments of the people of Bengal by freely mixing with them on friendly terms has endeared him to our countrymen.

BABU RAJENDRALALA MITRA said, Mr. Chairman, I just wish to say two words in reference to the remarks that have been made about the new Municipal Bill now before the Legislature. I entirely agree that it would be quite proper for the people of Calcutta to have the right of electing their representatives, for no Municipality can be worth the name unless that right is conceded. At the same time there are two questions that have to be considered,—one is the Government and the other the community. Now, as regards the Government, it may be taken as certain that it will not abdicate all its powers in favor of the community at large; and as long as it will not give the people the full right of election, it will be a simple farce to allow them to elect representatives who will vote a budget, while they will have no actual power, and I for my part will be no party to any such farce. If the Government agrees to vest full powers in the representatives of the community, as is the case in European towns, I will be the first and foremost to welcome such a scheme, but an Elective Municipality is nothing worth having so long as the Government will have the predominant power in it. The second question, which has to be considered, is the community itself, which, as you know, is a mixed one. We have a small number of Europeans who have supreme influence, and a large number of natives who are a mere nonentity. Give the people the right of election, and the now powerful Europeans will be put out. But is that what the Government would allow, or the European community would tolerate? If not, of what good will it be to say that you must

elect a native or a European or an Eurasian. It is not election but dictation where no free right is given; and, in my opinion, system of restricted election, with all the power in the hands of the Government, is utterly worthless. It is better to keep on the machinery which is now being worked smoothly enough, than to have a new system under which those who have any self-respect will be the last to come forward. There may be a few hungry people who, for the sake of mixing with Europeans, will canvass for votes, but the elite of the native community will never do so, and therefore such a Municipality is not worth having. These are the reasons why we should not wish to be treated to a limited election. In my opinion, if this is done, things will be in a worse state than they are now.

BABU JOYKISSEN MUKERJI said: Mr. Chairman, There are at present before the Bengal Council two Bills, with reference to which I wish to make a few observations. So long ago as the beginning of last year, the Committee of our Association, decided to move the Government for at least a partial amendment of the rent laws, and they were only prevented from doing so by the painful interest and pressing demands of the famine eclipsing the consideration of all other questions. We had again scarcely resolved to address the Government on the subject when we have been anticipated in our movement by the introduction of a Rent Bill into Council. The Bill, however, has not been conceived and framed too soon, and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor deserves the thanks of the country for directing his attention to the subject. The effect of the operation of the rent laws has been anything but salutary, and we have known from our own experience, and from the numerous representations that have been made to us that the delay, trouble, and expense attendant on the trial of ordinary rent suits by the Civil Court, and the miscarriage of justice, which so often occurs by the love of display of technicalities, have tended no less to the poverty and, in many cases, to the ruin of the ryots, than to the loss and harassment of the landlords. A law, which would simplify the procedure in rent suits, is therefore urgently needed; and I am therefore sorry to find that the present Bill, instead of restoring the jurisdiction of Collectors in all rent suits, has reference only to estates in which agrarian disturbances are likely to break out. I trust, however, that the Bill will undergo the necessary amendments in the Select Committee, and be all that is needed before it becomes a law. That the Bill requires amendment is obvious. The exclusion of putny talooks and other permanent tenures from the operation of the proposed law is not defensible on principle. A restriction as to the minimum area of land, which might be brought under the jurisdiction of the Collector as regards rent suits, might be reasonable, but no reason whatever can be assigned for granting the privilege to the landlords and ryots of a small revenue-paying estate, and denying it to those of a putny talook, perhaps more than twice its area. The provision in section 10 for collective suits is doubtless intended to lessen the expenses of litigation, but I fear it will be found impracticable. The variety of pleas taken by defendants in rent suits renders it almost impossible for two or more suits to be tried together. One defendant says that a portion of the disputed land is rent-free, and that another portion is included in the holding of another ryot; a second defendant objects that all the co-sharers have not been made parties to this suit, and that a widow of a late uncle, residing perhaps at Benares, and a cousin of his, who is living at Je-sore, should have been made co-defendants; a third defendant says that he has a minor brother, who should have been made a party, that the area of his land has been over-stated, and that a plot of aymal land has been wrongly included in the suit. As separate issues have to be framed, and evidence taken and weighed with reference to each of such frivolous pleas, it is easy to imagine what an impossible task the Collector would have to perform if the cases of ten or more ryots are included in one suit. A great reform might, however, be introduced in this direction by empowering Collectors not merely to prepare rent-rolls of estates under section 38 of the existing rent law, when so required, but also to assess enhanced rents of villages and estates on a similar plan, on applications by the landlords. The Bill provides that the Collector will be guided by the provisions of Act X. of 1859; but unless some of the provisions of that Act be modified, the evils of the present system will continue. It will be well, for instance, if the law were to lay down the instalments by which rent would be payable, instead of leaving that question to be decided in each case, according to its own merits. The service of notices of enhancement is at present a fruitful source of much contention, and our moonisiff friends dismiss 80 per cent. of enhancement suits, on the plea that the service of notice has not been proved to their satisfaction. The evil might be remedied by requiring the Collector, through whom such notices are served, to take evidence of the service as soon as the notice has been served, and to record his finding on the subject instead of allowing the question to be dealt with by a different tribunal, after a lapse of months and years. A similar provision will be found in the Road Cess Act, to the effect that the service of a notice on one shareholder is to be reckoned as a service on all, and there is also a provision that a suit against one ryot will be reckoned as regards the landlord and that ryot and his co-sharers as a suit against all which will also remove much frivolous contention and fraudulent concealment of the names of shareholders. But the most important alteration which the present rent law requires is with reference to the principle which should regulate the enhancement of rent. Experience has shown that the great uncertainty and confusion prevails on this subject, even in the decisions of the High Court; and it is now well and generally understood that there can be no suit for enhancement in which some hole might not be picked in the evidence or procedure, so as to obtain a reversal of the judgment of the lower Courts in special appeal. The complicated inquiry which the law requires in these cases, the great difficulty which all find in strictly conforming to the requirements of the law, and the extent of litigation which the present state of the law encourages by its uncertainty and complexity, show the necessity of amendment. The mode of competition by which Sir B. Peacock wanted to determine the fair and equitable rates of rent is at least worthy of a trial. The highest rate at which a certain class of land can be let is easily ascertainable, and I think that no objection will be made if occupancy ryots are allowed, as by the Oudh rent law, a percentage profit on the highest rates. There are a few other points on which the present Bill requires amendment, and I trust that the Committee of the Association will embody them in their letter to the Government on the subject.

I shall next draw the attention of the meeting to the partition of estates, otherwise the Batwara Bill. It is a very important measure, as it embraces not only the interests of the landholders, but also those of the ryots to some extent. About the time of the permanent settlement, 1793, Bengal principally consisted of 24 large zemindaries. There were of course many small zemindaries, talooks, and aymals, but the bulk of the land belonged to only a few wealthy families. The law of primogeniture prevailed in those families, but for reasons of State policy, Lord Cornwallis disturbed this custom, and introduced the Hindoo Law of Inheritance in respect to all zemindaries alike. A Regulation of 1793 enacted that all the sons of a person should inherit the paternal estate in equal shares. If his lordship were to come to life again, and survey Bengal, he would be surprised to find that that measure has entailed a large amount of misery upon all landed classes. Estates have been divided and subdivided into many fractional parts. It is not unfrequently that a ryot tilling a certain quantity of land has to pay his rents to the gomastahs of half a dozen proprietors. The Bengal Government proposed some time ago to introduce a Joint Management Estates Bill, but the question is beset with difficulties on all sides, and no amount of patch work legislation can remove those difficulties to any beneficial extent. An organic change assigning to each of the large zemindars a pergamani or two, and an entire village or two to each of the small fry, may cure the evil to a great extent; but such an organic change at the present time is out of the question. Besides, such a momentous question cannot fully be discussed at this place. I will confine my observations to-day to the partition of villages. This Bill could not have been entrusted to better hands than those of its author, Mr. Daupier. He has done his best to remodel the procedure. It would greatly redound to his credit if he can, with the aid of the members of the Select Committee, introduce a provision prohibiting a further dismemberment of villages; for instance, if there be three villages and three co-partners, each of them should have one entire village, the difference in area and profits being made up by compensation in money. Again, say, there are three villages and five co-partners. I would in that case insist upon three shareholders taking three entire villages, and the other two receiving either money value proportionate to their shares, or a fixed rent *pro rata*, as if their shares were given in putay. But if the shareholders do not come to a settlement among themselves, or by arbitration, I would not give them the benefit of the partition law, but manage their villages by a common gomastah. The inestimable benefit of an entire village belonging to one malik is so great and obvious, that the landholders would hail this change with delight. Such a beginning would in time accomplish further reforms in the management of landed property.

If this humble suggestion be approved by the Legislature, sections 4, 5, and 35 will require to be modified.

I have some further observations which I reserve for consideration at the time when this Association will submit a memorial on this subject to the Bengal Council. I hope this meeting will direct the attention of the Managing Committee to take this into their serious consideration.

Babu JODULAL MALLICK was glad to find that the question of the Municipal Bill had been brought forward, for their interests were so closely allied to it, that they could not let it pass without expressing their views on the subject to the Legislature. He thought that they might safely count on the services of their friends, the Hon'ble Durgacharan Lahia and the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal, in Council, and that all possible protection would be given to the interests of the rate-payers of the metropolis. But knowing, as they did, that these hon'ble members would be in a standing minority if the Government wished to press a matter, the Association should make representations on the subject. The most important points in the Bill were those relating to *bastis* and the water-supply. It was proposed to increase the water-rate from five to six per cent. to construct a double main, and increase the number of tanks, with a view to meet the demands of the town. But he need not point out a curious anomaly in this matter; while, on the one hand, the Legislature proposed to increase the rate, on the other it proposed to decrease the supply. As regards the *basti* question—that affecting those here present and others, he thought that it was a serious question for landlords. Their friend, Babu Rajendralala Mitra, had pointed out that the cost of filling tanks in the *bastis*, which the owners were required to do, was more than double the value of the land itself. It was surely high time for the landlords to memorialize the Government, and bring to the notice of Sir Richard Temple the facts of the case, as it was well known that His Honor would never shut his eyes to the wants of the people of the metropolis. There was also another matter to which he wished to allude. In cases of distresses for rent, the law had fallen very hard on landlords who had been deprived of their preferential rights. In the time of the late Chief Justice, Sir Barnes Peacock, it had been ruled that huts were immovable property, and recently it had been decided that they could be removed by the tenant, though immovable. They could just fancy the anomaly. When the landlord had to realise his rent, the hut was immovable. When he tried to eject the tenant, the hut was movable, for it could be removed. The Trades Association, some time ago, petitioned the Government for an amendment of the Small Cause Court; and he thought that if this Association joined them, it might be productive of some good effect. He would, therefore move, "that the Committee be requested to move the Legislature to amend the Presidency Small Cause Court Acts, with a view to facilitate the recovery of rent in Calcutta."

BABU SUBALDAS MALLICK seconded the resolution.

Carried.

BABU RAJENDRALALA MITRA said that the new rent law, which had been introduced into the Bengal Council, was not sufficient for the purpose for which it was intended, and deserved the serious attention of the Committee. For his own part, he could not approve of the measure, and it appeared to him, in his own irreverent way of thinking, a kind of cross-breed between a drum head court-martial and the primitive law of the patriarchs with none of the good qualities of either. (laughter). He could imagine a *bur* tree under which an officer of, say, six months' standing, was seated, (with the zemindar on one side, and two or three hundred ryots on the other), and after hearing certain facts giving a decision to govern as many cases, as he may choose, to string together quite irrespective of their issues. If the zemindar said that he could not manage to act in accordance with this decision,

why, he deserved to be lashed to a cart tail, and whipped (laughter). In a drum head court-martial there were generally three officers of some experience and several years' standing, but here there were not three officers, but either a young assistant smelling rankly of bread and milk, or a graduate of the Presidency College who had just passed his examination in the third grade, who gave a decision, from which there was no appeal. We all knew that young persons between the ages of 20 and 30 rode their hobbies most violently; in fact, we all rode our hobbies, and if a Deputy Magistrate's hobby was philanthropy, a decision adverse to the zemindar was almost certain. On the other hand if a Deputy thought the zemindars persecuted angels, and the ryots the very imps of mischief, a mode of thinking by no means uncommon, hundreds—nay thousands of poor helpless people may be most irretrievably ruined. In either case such a course should be reprobated with the strongest censure. Had it been that we were living in extraordinary revolutionary times, such a law as this might have answered the purpose for which it was intended, but when it was remembered that the administration of Bengal had been fixed for the past one hundred and thirty years, and the people generally were mild, weak and low—abiding with very well defined rights of property involving many intricate points of law such a measure could not but prove pernicious. Doubtless the Bill was in good hands—in those of a gentleman of the highest character and vast useful experience, and as projects of law in this country were usually submitted to legislation in a very immature shape, not as in Europe as finished works—more like the cubs of bears or the young of a Kangaroo to be licked or nursed into shape in the nursery of the Select Committee, it was to be expected that the foster mother of the Bill in question would sit on it and divest it of its imperfections, and render it a fitting instrument for the repression of the unhealthy state of things, which now existed in some places without injury to private rights and property, but this could not be predicated of the Bill as it now stood, and his object therefore was to call the special attention of this Association to it. The speaker had the highest confidence in the mover of the Bill and the Select Committee, and hoped that when the Bill would come out of their hands it would be all that is desirable; but to that end the Association should give full expression to what is most wanted.

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